



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
THIRD SESSION
2000

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 20 June 2000

Legislative Council

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THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

BILLS - ASSENT

Messages from the Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Consumer Credit (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 1999.
2. Plant Pests and Diseases (Eradication Funds) Amendment Bill 2000.
3. First Home Owner Grant Bill 2000.
4. Rail Freight System Bill 1999.

DUFFY ROAD AND REID HIGHWAY INTERSECTION, CARINE - ROAD DESIGN

Petition

Hon E.R.J. Dermer presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 161 persons -

To the Honourable the President and members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned citizens are totally opposed to the current design planned for the intersection of Duffy Road and the Reid Highway in Carine.

This design does not provide for safe north/south traffic flow along Duffy Road and across the intersection and will adversely affect the safety and convenience of residents and other regular Duffy Road users required to travel north/south.

We request that an alternative design for the intersection of the Reid Highway and Duffy Road be incorporated into the plan.

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

[See paper No 1064.]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill 2000, Fifty-third Report

Hon Murray Nixon presented the fifty-third report of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs, on the Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill 2000, and on his motion it was resolved -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 1065.]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999, Fifty-first Report and Minority Report

Hon Bruce Donaldson presented the fifty-first report of the Standing Committee on Legislation, on the Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999, comprising a report of the committee and a minority report of Hon Giz Watson, and on his motion it was resolved -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 1066.]

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Amendment Regulations (No 11) 1999, Fifty-second Report

Hon Tom Helm presented the fifty-second report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Amendment Regulations (No 11) 1999, together with the transcripts of evidence dated Monday, 3 April 2000, and on his motion it was resolved -

That the report and the transcripts do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See papers Nos 1067 and 1068.]

CARNARVON, STATE'S RESPONSE TO FLOOD-AFFECTED FARMERS*Urgency Motion*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): I have received the following letter addressed to me and dated 20 June -

Dear Mr President

At today's sitting it is my intention to move under SO72 that the House at its rising adjourn until 9am on 25 December 2000 for the purpose of discussing the State's response to the financial difficulties that are being experienced by flood affected farmers in Carnarvon.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kim Chance MLC
Member for Agricultural Region

In order to discuss this matter, it will be necessary for at least four members to indicate their support by rising in their places.

[At least four members rose in their places.]

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural) [3.41 pm]: I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until 9.00 am on 25 December.

I thank members for their support in this very important matter. The Carnarvon plantations and the people who own and work on them make a particular and unique contribution to the State of Western Australia. The subregion itself, somewhat like Kununurra, is unique because it is effectively an oasis in an otherwise harsh pastoral region climate. Due to their latitude in each case, particularly with Carnarvon on the banks of the Gascoyne River, the produce is varied and of real importance. Due to its latitude, the produce that can be grown on the banks of the Gascoyne River is varied and is often the only source of fresh produce of that type available in the whole State.

The riverine environment on which the Carnarvon plantations are located is at once the reason for the industry's existence and also its worst enemy. The rich red loam on which crops in that area thrive are the result of earlier and massive flood events. As we have exploited these river flats, we have also sought to control the floods which take place on them. Anybody would understand that the process of interfering with the flow of a major river of that nature is fraught with danger. Although I do not propose to go over that issue again because the House has quite recently - shortly after the floods caused by cyclone Steve - discussed it, I simply want to note that the House has taken note of the engineering matters which have arisen. Not long ago we discussed the impact that the levees have, particularly on those plantations on the wrong side of Boundary Road levee. We must not ignore the impact that those levees have, without any criticism implied or otherwise. I do not think there would be much argument if I were to say that a great number of people benefited from those levees and the protection that they provided. That protection was available only at the cost of a few who, it could be argued at the very least, were severely disadvantaged by those works. It is those people and their plight which are the subject of this urgency motion.

Along with the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tom Stephens, I visited Carnarvon as the flood waters from cyclone Steve began to recede. I spoke with two different groups of farmers from either side of the river. Without going over matters which we have already reported to the Parliament, I was shocked at the extent of the damage that was apparent as the water level went down enough for us to see it. It also became apparent to us that farmers would face longer-term problems which would persist long after the physical damage of the flooding had been repaired. Those problems were essentially financial issues which would not be resolved by carting a few loads of soil back onto their plantations.

Cyclone Steve hit at a time when tomato crops in particular were just about to be planted; in fact, some had been planted and were washed out of the ground, and the total investment in that season's crop was lost. In other cases, melon crops that were ready for harvest at the time the cyclone arose were completely destroyed. In short, the better part of many farmers' annual income for the coming year has been severely compromised. It was clear to us then that there would be financial problems a little way down the track. We have reached that point a little way down the track when those financial problems have begun to bite. For growers of specialty goods there were less obvious challenges. Because of the floods, some growers had been unable to supply their normal markets for a considerable period of time. Those customers obtained other supplies, frequently from overseas. Now that the Carnarvon producers have the capacity to produce and supply those markets, they have found on a number of occasions that it is hard to get back into those markets because alternative suppliers, sometimes from overseas, are supplying that market.

Hon M.J. Criddle: Can you give an example of a product?

Hon KIM CHANCE: Roses in particular.

Last Friday's edition of *The Northern Guardian* carried a front page article on the endorsed Labor candidate for Ningaloo, Samantha Ogden, who pointed to the extent of the problem for the Carnarvon economy.

Hon Barry House: Is she one of your candidates who lives in Perth?

Hon KIM CHANCE: Samantha Ogden lives in Carnarvon. She used to live in Karratha, which is also a long way from

Perth. Ms Ogden has pointed to not only the extent of the problem for the Carnarvon economy but also, I was delighted to see - because anybody can point to a problem - a possible resolution. In her comments to *The Northern Guardian* she has accurately pointed to the capacity that the Government has through the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation to provide a much needed breathing space for farmers to allow them to meet their urgent commitments by means of long-term, low-interest loans. Ms Ogden indicated that the financial problems for farmers were devastating and that these problems were working their way through the whole of the local economy as a result of farmers having to restrict their spending and, in some cases, being unable to meet their immediate financial commitments. Without this breathing space, Carnarvon's unemployment figures, which are already up by 65 per cent over the March quarter figures, which are frightening figures, will blow out even further.

The issues that Ms Ogden raised have been supported by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry president in Carnarvon. The president, Terry Haggett, said that the chamber had tried all avenues to access low-interest loans or grants but nothing was available to help small business and private enterprise. The article in *The Northern Guardian* reads -

"The Government has forgotten them," he said.

"Once the soil was replaced that was it."

Mr Haggett said that since the flood, growers have had no income and this has affected all businesses in town, from clothes shops to hairdressers and even liquor outlets.

The same article reports Ms Ogden as stating that RAFCOR held funds in reserve amounting to \$21.7m. That is more than enough to provide the relief that is needed. She asked a reasonable question: Why has the reserve not been used, as earlier Labor Governments have used it, to alleviate the severe short-term difficulties and to prevent them becoming long-term issues for the local economy?

Hon M.J. Criddle: It is fair to say that Governments generally have assisted.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I will be acknowledging that. I have checked the \$21.7m figure in the current budget papers. Ms Ogden was dead right: In the current budget papers RAFCOR's reserves are shown to be \$21.747m. We must ask why these reserves are not being made available to Carnarvon farmers to allow them to get on their feet again. I noticed in the same article that the local member for the time being, Mr Rod Sweetman MLA, said that while the State Government had poured -

Hon N.F. Moore: He will be elected for as long as he wants to put his hand up for that electorate, and you know it as well as I do.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Of course, the Leader of the House is entitled to his opinion.

He said that the State Government had poured "buckets of money" into the region. I agree that, although limited, the State Government has been quick with its response and that the response has generally been well targeted. However, the member for Ningaloo went on to say that there had been no assistance from the Federal Government. Oh, really! In fact, the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation reserve funds - I ask members to listen to this carefully because it is important - are the residue of the rural adjustment scheme funds. They were sourced from the Commonwealth, yet the member for Ningaloo said that the Commonwealth had not been there to help. In fact, the Federal Government, or at least a former federal Labor Government, has already provided the means to assist, but the State Government refuses to make them available to Carnarvon farmers.

When I was checking the extent of the RAFCOR reserves, I found that although this year the available sum is \$21.7m, the actual figure of that reserve last year was \$31.229m. What has happened to the almost \$10m that has gone missing in the current financial year? Certainly it did not go to Carnarvon plantation owners - not a cracker of it. Not a single, solitary cent of that money went to the Carnarvon farmers, so where did it go? To go back another year, in the 1999-2000 budget the actual figure quoted for the reserve in 1997-98 was almost \$40m. Going forward to 2002-03, the cupboard will be bare. The forward estimates show that the reserve will be depleted completely by the end of 2001-02.

The member for Ningaloo also said that it was not easy to access RAFCOR funds due to the conditions applying to them. That is a fair enough comment, but surely those conditions, whatever they be, are in the hands of the Government to alter if they are the real reason for the apparent unavailability of those funds. What are the conditions which prevent Carnarvon farmers accessing those funds? Clearly, the member for Ningaloo has made inquiries and has found that the conditions are restrictive. What has the Government done to respond to the issues raised by the member for Ningaloo?

In the five years 1997-98 to 2002-03, the State Government will have frittered away almost \$40m of a reserve fund that was established by the Commonwealth to assist farmers in difficulty. How much of that money went to loan funds to farmers who needed a little help? It is an easy answer, Mr President. We do not have to wait long for an answer to that question. The answer is that not one single dollar of that \$40m was ever made available in loan funds to Western Australian farmers. We know that because on page 847 of volume 2 of the 1997-98 *Budget Statements*, the Government told us that it had changed its focus from supporting farmers who had a debt problem to improving farm business skills. Okay, now we can look to the Government's performance in delivering all that training. After all, over \$20m has already been spent in that area. We should note at this stage that had that \$20m gone out in loan funds, it would have been available in the future as those loans were repaid. However, to go back to the most recently available figures dealing with the Government's management of training for farmers, the area which has been most affected is the south coast. The first issue that arises in

respect of farm financial problems on the south coast is that financial management and risk management are the areas in which most gains can be made in farm viability. Many producers do not have good risk or financial management skills. The first issue that comes up is the area in which the Government says it has spent this \$20m. I suggest that there has not been much targeted training made available to farmers.

Hon M.J. Criddle: That is not fair.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I submit that this money has been frittered away and that the issues on which it has been spent have nothing to do with training, and may even include a few world tours for some of the minister's favoured few. I say that because whenever I speak to people who have anything to do with primary industry training, they are simply amazed when I tell them that the Government has spent \$10m this current year on farmer education. They tell me that that is not happening currently; if it is, they would know about it. They cannot see where it has been spent.

The Government has a duty to account for the way the RAFCOR reserve funds have been depleted. If it has a reasonable explanation of the way those funds have been run down, it should have no difficulty bringing into this place an explanation of how those funds have been expended and what results have been achieved by that expenditure. In the meantime, a reserve of \$21.7m remains. There is a dire need for those funds to be made available to Carnarvon farmers, and I urge the Parliament to make them available.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [3.56 pm]: One of the other issues that arose in the township of Carnarvon, or its outskirts, during those most recent floods was that on 5 April, in an article that appeared in *The Northern Guardian* about the floods, the member for Ningaloo made reference to what he called a government buyback scheme that would, in his view, assist the local community by ensuring that flood-prone areas in Carnarvon were acquired by the Government. That led me to immediately place on the Notice Paper a question to the Minister for Regional Development. That question was one that I tried to have answered quickly. Fortuitously, the answer arrived a few moments ago. The answer from the Minister for Regional Development is -

There has been some discussion regarding a buy back scheme for those properties which continually flood, for example at Sheridan Gully. At this stage no scheme has been developed . . .

Here we are, well past the period of distress for those growers, the owners of blocks that have been the subject of the most recent inundation, and past the statewide and national coverage that those people were receiving. At that time, people from the Government, including the local member, were being quoted in the Press and were beating their chests about how well the Government would respond to the needs of those local growers; they were trumpeting a scheme that simply does not exist. It has not been developed, and there are no indications that such a scheme will be forthcoming. Instead, we are told that the Minister for Water Resources has requested the Water and Rivers Commission to investigate ways of reducing flood levels in the future. That is a thoroughly pathetic response on the part of the Court Government to the tragedy that unfurled during those recent floods in the Carnarvon area.

It is a double tragedy when the hopes and expectations of the affected growers are so cruelly raised and then callously ignored when it comes to a substantive program to meet their needs. The coalition member from that area suggested to the community that a buyback scheme would be introduced, but no such scheme exists. It is self-evident that since the levees have been raised on the edges of Carnarvon, to the benefit of the overwhelming majority of residents in that area, other landowners have increased risk of inundation, and that has become a reality for some. Some of the people who own land immediately adjacent to the levee banks have never previously experienced floods on their properties, and some of them acquired their land because they knew it was not subject to flooding. Once the levees were installed and the height was increased, those properties became subject to inundation for the first time in the history of that area. Some of the homes in that area are the very modest, simple homes of hardworking men and women of the land. Those homes have been unexpectedly flooded, and in some cases the owners are now living in squalid conditions experiencing the penalties that result from a flood of this sort. The floods have not only penetrated the buildings and covered the carpets and lino, but also have left an awful smell even though many of these people's possessions have been thrown out. These landowners were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the much-trumpeted program about which the local member talked; that is, a buyback scheme for the owners of properties affected by the floods.

The cruel reality, announced to the House in the answer delivered to me today, is that no such scheme will be forthcoming. Worse still, no program is yet in place to reduce the flood levels in that community in the future. It is a totally inadequate response. The Government has available to it the solid recommendations of the working parties on flood mitigation schemes that need to be adopted and implemented for that township. All the expertise is on the table. A flood mitigation project team has provided expert advice that is available to the Government, and the Government now needs only the political will to respond to the needs of the community. I fear this community will find the Government is proposing to turn a blind eye to its needs and a deaf ear to its pleas. It is a tragedy that when these crises occur, the Government big-notes itself by suggesting it will be of endless assistance to the local community. However, once the issue is off the front page of the newspaper and away from the glare of television and the radio waves, regrettably, the Government goes back to sleep and the needs of the community remain unmet.

HON M.J. CRIDDLE (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [4.04 pm]: I welcome the opportunity to comment on the issues raised by members, and I assure them that the Government is well and truly aware of the plight of these people and the need to get their farms back to active production. In quite a few cases the farms are back in production. Immediately after cyclone Steve swept through the Carnarvon region, the Government quickly moved to assess the situation by means of a visit to the area by the acting Minister for Emergency Services, Cheryl Edwardes. Hon Norman Moore, who is a local

member for that area, went there immediately to gain an appreciation of the drastic situation. The Premier visited the area a short while afterwards to gain an appreciation of the situation. Cyclone Steve certainly caused major flooding of plantations in the Carnarvon area. That area is subject to serious flooding, and has been flooded on a number of occasions.

The local people were involved in getting the situation as close to normal as was possible, and the cooperation of the local people is recognised by the Government. They obviously deserve a great deal of credit for the way in which they handled that situation. The Government immediately put in place a recovery scheme, at a cost of \$2.5m, to re-establish the productive capacity of plantations, and many of the crops are now close to harvest or are being harvested. I understand the tomato harvest is proceeding well, and the returns at this stage are substantial. Other people in the eastern States may be less fortunate and may have suffered some damage to crops. The crucial elements of the scheme were to re-establish access roads to plantations and to re-establish essential infrastructure damaged by flood waters. It has been necessary to replace packing sheds and tanks, and some expenditure has been necessary in that area. Local businesses have benefited from that.

The Government immediately put in place the Carnarvon farm recovery scheme, and a committee oversees the initiatives and endorses the work carried out. Many of the eligible works are anticipated to be completed by 30 July 2000. Certainly, the approved infrastructure repairs are close to completion, and that includes transport and the water tanks that need to be in place. The total project costs to 17 June were \$1.3m, but obviously some accounts are outstanding and it is anticipated that the \$2.5m allocated will be spent in the near future.

Some of the works that need to be done have been impacted upon by the dry weather conditions. Those who know anything about farming will know that moving soil around in dry conditions can cause some structural problems, and the dust has an impact on the banana crop. Agriculture Western Australia carried out an immediate damage and loss audit of the 100-plus farms. I understand between 120 and 130 farms were affected from a total of 166 in that area. Soil analysis of soil pits for rehabilitation work was necessary, and much of it has been carried out. There are five pits on crown land, and some on station country. Soil will be provided free of charge to rehabilitate some of the farming land. Funding was provided for volunteer service clubs to clean up paddocks after the flood. Skips have been put in place, and some of the funding has been spent on the goodwill required in those areas.

A team of financial advisers has been established, and I was interested to hear Hon Kim Chance touch on that with regard to the south coast. I was involved in that, and I know one of the issues in business - whether it be a farm or any other business - is the ability to manage the business itself and to determine the situation. In some cases people need a clear analysis of the picture to know where they stand before they make a decision on whether to proceed with the enterprise or take other steps in the interests of their family and the business itself. Some analysis must be undertaken to place these businesses appropriately in the future. It is a very important decision. Producers do not want to reduce their equity to the point at which they can no longer carry on. Those decisions are serious for those involved.

An adviser to the grape and wine industries was also provided. Because of the change in the dormancy rate, some chemical assistance was required to maintain the opportunity to access niche markets. Agriculture WA has been involved and has done a sterling job in that part of the world. In addition, \$1m has been spent actioning the lower Gascoyne management strategy, including the flood plain management and river hydrology. That must be done to get a clear indication of what is required. Members are aware that family assistance of \$1 000 each adult and \$200 each child was provided.

I will touch on the issue Hon Kim Chance raised about the reserves in the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation. Unfortunately, I did not understand that that was the principal focus of this debate and that it would take longer to address the issues he raised. The commonwealth funding arrangements amount to \$11.8m, but that has been allocated to support schemes. The state scheme involves \$10m. The farm business scheme is in place and substantial moneys will be spent and the Gascoyne-Murchison scheme will also attract substantial funds. That initiative will be of enormous benefit because the people in that area must address the ongoing issues affecting their industry.

Hon Kim Chance: Are you free to table that document?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: I will check with the minister. Perhaps the member and I can come to an arrangement.

Assistance will also be provided for the implementation of the business plans and monitoring and evaluation for the southern prospects program. As I said, about \$10m of state funding will be spent on the farm business program. Some funds will be allocated to the Gascoyne-Murchison area and other projects. Natural resource adjustment scheme funds will also be spent.

The Government is looking at all agricultural businesses. If we can focus on that, everyone will benefit. Obviously people in those areas will have to make clear business decisions. I do not underestimate the amount of damage done to properties and businesses. Anyone with any knowledge of the situation knows that enormous pressure will be felt in the wheatbelt. We can look at the entire State and see the impact of the frost and the dry across the farming and pastoral areas. It is not centred in one area; there is an opportunity to fund the improvement of the entire primary industry in this State.

HON GREG SMITH (Mining and Pastoral) [4.13 pm]: I thank Hon Kim Chance for moving this motion so we can make some comments about Carnarvon. I went to Carnarvon last week to see how the recovery program is going. The topsoil recovery program has been an outstanding success - it is almost complete and well ahead of schedule. Many of the properties are in better condition now than they have ever been. Prior to the flood, only two farms had been laser levelled, but now every property has undergone that procedure. That will lead to much greater efficiency in the use of water in the area, where water is a very precious resource.

I will mention a few people for the work they have done in getting Carnarvon back on its feet because they have not previously been acknowledged. Mark Lewis is the manager of Agriculture Western Australia in Carnarvon. The work he has done since the flood has been commended by everyone in the town. He has had many late nights drafting submissions for funding, prioritising spending and getting the town up and running. Mr David Parr had retired from Agriculture WA but, because of his experience of the area and knowledge of horticulture, he was re-employed to help. Last, but by no means the least, I commend Mr Rod Sweetman, the member for Ningaloo. People in Carnarvon have nothing but praise for him. They are astounded by the work he has done and his commitment to getting the town back on its feet. Immediately after the flood, he talked to the Premier, the Leader of the House and others and pointed out that the priority had to be to get the plantation owners back in business. Five weeks after the floodwaters receded, every farmer along the river was capable of planting a crop. The price of tomatoes is \$50 a box, which is the highest price ever received. Last year tomatoes were selling at \$7 a box. Since the flood, the farmers have been able to regenerate their land, plant crops and they are now picking tomatoes. Capsicums are selling for \$1.60 a kilogram, which is almost unprecedented.

I talked to the member for Ningaloo about what was happening immediately after the flood. He said that everyone would be back in business in no time. Each farmer would have about five acres of usable land - it was not intended to restore each property entirely before moving on to the next property. In that way, the farmers could get a crop planted and the market price for that produce would be very high. The member had looked at the cyclone activity in Queensland and extrapolated the supply and demand equation. He predicted that, if they got produce on the market quickly, they would get very good prices. He was correct. It is unfortunate that in the agricultural industry, one person's loss is another's gain.

Hon Kim Chance: Particularly in horticulture.

Hon GREG SMITH: It is true of all crops. We watch the American wheat crop with great interest.

Rod Sweetman has been criticised, but only for being too ambitious. He was told the soil recovery program could not be completed in six months. He was involved in the program and it was finished in four and a half months at a cost of \$2.5m. That injection into Carnarvon has made a significant contribution to its economy.

Hon Kim Chance: You still have unemployment in Carnarvon 65 per cent higher than that in the March quarter.

Hon N.F. Moore: Did you check why?

Hon GREG SMITH: There will always be unemployment in Carnarvon.

The basis of this debate is an article in *The Northern Guardian*. The article quoted the secretary of the shop assistants' union from Wanneroo.

Hon Kim Chance: Who is that?

Hon GREG SMITH: A person who has just gone to Carnarvon and found out where it is. She is commenting on the economy of the Gascoyne. I do not know how she would have any benchmarks from which to work. There is also a quote from Mr Terry Haggett, the president of the local chamber of commerce. Mr Haggett is very upset about how he has been quoted in the article. When Mr Haggett was asked about his comments in the article he said that he had never said anything like that and that he had been misquoted. He said that he had nothing but praise for the way the State Government had carried out the recovery program in Carnarvon since the cyclone. Of course, that may not suit the Opposition's agenda.

The Leader of the Opposition's audacity never surprises me, but to hear him constantly criticise the levee banks around Carnarvon exasperates me. The levee banks saved the majority of the town, nearly all the residents and the other businesses. The member for Ningaloo has been criticised for preserving the levee banks - for staying up all night while the floods approached the town and adding to the levee banks to protect the town.

I talked to a few of the business owners when I was in the town. They accepted that things had been a bit quiet after the flood and they also accepted the fact that they lived in a floodplain and that they got flooded every 20 years or so. The people in Carnarvon are philosophical about floods. There is no doubt that more work will be done to try and alleviate the effects of floods. Levee banks are not the answer. The water needs to be redirected around the town and towards the sea; it needs to have somewhere else to flow rather than have it come over the levee banks.

The Carnarvon area has suffered a downturn in its economy. The local member, Rod Sweetman, said that there are now about 1 000 fewer people in the electorate. He is trying to find out where they have gone. He said that they had not left the town or the plantations prior to the flood. He said that they had all left from the pastoral areas. He is not sure whether some of those people from the pastoral areas, who are now unemployed, are now in the town and therefore increasing the town's unemployment figures. Unemployment in the town should not be attributed solely to the flood or to the level of economic activity in the town. There must be people in the town who have lost their jobs. No-one understands the community of Carnarvon better than Rod Sweetman, the local member. He has lived there all his life, he has run a business there and he has been an employer of numerous people in the town. He is concerned about the unemployment but he is trying to find out what sector the unemployed people have come from. Unemployment is not widespread in the horticultural industry or in the plantations at the moment. A disaster which causes damage throughout an industry will, to some extent, create employment in the industry. It is something that is puzzling us as a Government and Rod Sweetman as the local member. We will try to identify the unemployment problem and do something to address it.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [4.24 pm]: It is a sad occasion again when the Opposition tries to make a political football out of the plight of Carnarvon. I think this is the second go that we have had

on this issue. Carnarvon suffered another flood of quite significant magnitude which required a response from the Government, as has been the case for many years. I have been representing Carnarvon since 1977 and in that time the town has suffered a number of floods. I have watched the growth of the levee banks over that time. The 1981 flood, which was very serious, flooded the whole of east Carnarvon because the only levee banks in those days were around the town itself - the Morgan Town levee. The whole of east Carnarvon was unprotected by levee banks and none of the plantation area was protected. After that flood a lot of work was done by an engineering firm to look at what should be done about levies around the town. A decision was made by the then Labor Government to extend the levies, but only as far as Boundary Road. They were east-west levies along the south side of the river and then there was a right-angle levee going north-south along Boundary Road, which came to an end without joining up with any high ground. The levee was built even though the recommendations of the engineering firm were that the whole of the plantation area on the south side of the river should be protected by a levee which went along the river bank to Browns Range. Hon Kim Chance has made snide remarks about the member for Ningaloo. It is not like him to make such comments and it is a pity that he has because I have had a very close look at the Boundary Road levee and I recognise that the proposal put forward by the engineering firm was that the levee go all the way to Browns Range. The Boundary Road levee was a decision made by the last Labor Government which decided that east Carnarvon should be protected and that the plantations should be left to their own devices. That is what that decision meant.

The local member, Rod Sweetman, probably saved east Carnarvon from being flooded like it was in 1981. He was awake all night when the flood was coming down the river. It stopped by the Boundary Road levee and started flowing south again along the floodway, protected by the Boundary Road levee. It just so happens that Rod Sweetman's property backs onto that levee. He happened to be there with his front-end loader and saw that the levee was starting to break. Like the boy in the folk tale who put his finger in the dike and stopped Holland from being flooded, Rod Sweetman was able to stop the levee from breaking. If one has a good hard look at where it is, one would see that had the levee broken, the water would have come around behind the Boundary Road levee and flooded the whole of east Carnarvon. That would have been absolutely disastrous.

Hon Kim Chance: I did not say anything like that. I said many were protected at the cost of the few.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member came in here and made a speech. I am telling him why the few, whom Hon Kim Chance is suggesting are not been looked after well enough, were not protected by the levee. It is because the member's Government and his minister - I think it was Ernie Bridge - made a decision to stop the levee at Boundary Road. That is the reason that there is no protection for the plantations on the south side of the river.

The Labor Party continually knocks whatever anybody does in this State; it is knocking all the time. Members opposite are whingeing and whining knockers. They complain about what has been going on. They cannot help themselves. They are so negative. They are the most negative Opposition in history and everybody knows it. People are always wondering what they are going to whinge about next. This is their second or third go at Carnarvon.

Carnarvon has been under water many times in the past and Governments of both persuasions have looked after that town on each occasion. As Hon Greg Smith has outlined, a huge amount of work has gone into Carnarvon on this occasion, as it has on every previous occasion. Since we have been the Government, Carnarvon has suffered two major floods and both have been attended to in a very rapid and responsible way. As at Exmouth, Broome and Moora, the Government has gone in and helped the people who have experienced problems with cyclones and floods. The fact is that we have responded very rapidly to these situations which have occurred since we have been in Government. That is what Governments are for. It is a pity that the Opposition should come into the Parliament and complain about circumstances such as these. They are making political footballs out of people's distress. One day in Broome I said facetiously to Hon Tom Stephens that the biggest problem about experiencing a cyclone in the town was when he turned up afterwards. He actually does more damage than the cyclone. That is what his sort of politics are all about. It is a shame that we must have that.

Hon Tom Stephens: That is untrue, unfair and unkind and the minister knows it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The comment was made very much tongue in cheek.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! I am trying to listen to the Leader of the House. This is a limited-time debate.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Thank you, Mr President. I reiterate that we have poured an enormous amount of energy and resources into dealing with the situation in Carnarvon, and we have done that also in the other towns which have had problems of this nature.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - DISCHARGED

Motion

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [4.30 pm]: I move, without notice -

That the following orders of the day -

No 1 - Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Amendment Regulations (No 11) 1999 - Disallowance

No 3 - Shire of Manjimup Signs Local Law 1999 - Disallowance

No 4 - Part 9 of the Shire of Murray Consolidated Local Government Local Laws - Disallowance

No 5 - Shire of Murray Cemeteries Local Laws - Disallowance

No 7 - Surveillance Devices Amendment Regulations 1999 - Disallowance

No 8 - City of Nedlands Local Law Relating to Fencing - Disallowance

No 9 - City of Stirling Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 1999 - Disallowance

be discharged from the Notice Paper.

The reasons for this motion are as follows: With regard to Order of the Day No 1, a report has been tabled in the House today. With regard to Order of the Day No 3, the Shire of Manjimup has satisfied the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation's concerns about these local laws, apart from the anomaly regarding routed wooden signs. With regard to Orders of the Day Nos 4 and 5, the local government authority has satisfied the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation's concerns regarding these local laws. With regard to Orders of the Day Nos 8 and 9, the local government authority has satisfied the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation's concerns regarding these local laws.

With regard to Order of the Day No 7, the reason is as follows -

- 1.1 The Committee has resolved to seek the leave of the Legislative Council to withdraw its motion for disallowance on the *Surveillance Devices Amendment Regulations 1999*.
- 1.2 The Committee recognises that the Amendment Regulations are within power as the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999* permits "law enforcement officers" to be prescribed by regulation. The definition of "law enforcement officer" in section 3 of the Act includes in paragraph (d), "a person who is a member of such other class of persons as is prescribed, being persons who are officers or employees of a department, authority or agency of the State or of another State or a Territory."
- 1.3 Regulation 4 of the Amendment Regulations prescribes members of the Serious Offences Unit of Fisheries Western Australia as law enforcement officers for the purposes of the Act.
- 1.4 The Committee is critical of the method chosen by the Parliament to introduce new classes of persons who will have the power to apply through police, the Anti-Corruption Commission or the National Crimes Authority for a warrant to install and use surveillance devices including telephone tapping powers. These powers are traditionally used only by police and other specialised investigative bodies such as the ACC and NCA. These are the bodies from which specified personnel are classified as law enforcement officers in the body of the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999*. The principal purpose of such Agencies is the prosecution of criminal and corrupt behaviour. The use of surveillance devices including telephone tapping is integral and not ancillary to the functions of these agencies.
- 1.5 The powers of telephone tapping and video surveillance are not usually associated with government agencies which may have a policing function which is only one of a number of purposes or functions of the Act which they are charged with administering. The object of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* are specified in section 3 as:
 - to conserve, develop and share the fish resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations;
 - to conserve fish and to protect their environment;
 - to ensure that the exploitation of fish resources is carried out in a sustainable manner;
 - to enable the management of fishing, aquaculture and associated industries and aquatic eco-tourism;
 - to foster the development of commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture to achieve the optimum economic, social and other benefits from the use of fish resources;
 - to enable the allocation of fish resources between users of those resources;
 - to provide for the control of foreign interests in fishing, aquaculture and associated industries;
 - to enable the management of fish habitat protection areas and the Abrolhos Islands reserve.
- 1.6 The Committee recognises that to achieve many of the objects under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, penalties are required to discourage behaviour which is inconsistent with the objects of the Act and to provide a deterrent. To this extent the Act provides significant penalties which include forfeiture of property. The Act also provides for policing in the form of inspectors. In the Committee's view these matters, although important are ancillary matters.

- 1.7 However, the Committee is satisfied on the basis of the material submitted by Fisheries WA that it is not inappropriate for members of the Serious Offences Unit of Fisheries WA to be prescribed law enforcement officers under the Act.
- 1.8 The Committee is of the view that the ability in the Act to prescribe law enforcement officers by regulation should be removed. The *Surveillance Devices Act 1999* should be amended to remove the ability to prescribe law enforcement officers by way of subsidiary legislation made by the Executive. The power to obtain a warrant to install and use surveillance devices is a matter which raises serious issues of privacy and civil liberties and has the potential for misuse. The recent dismissal of employees from Telstra who were caught listening to relatives and friends when purporting to be investigating line faults is an example of the misuse to which these powers can be put.
- 1.9 These are important matters which should be the subject of full and informed debate in the Parliament when it is proposed to add to the class of law enforcement officers under the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999*. These should be added by amendment to the Act, which would require debate in the Parliament, rather than introducing them via subsidiary legislation.

Question put and passed.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Motion

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [4.38 pm]: I move, without notice -

That until Monday, 7 August 2000 the House continue to sit until 11.00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and 6.00 pm on Thursday and that the House commence its sittings on Wednesday at 3.00 pm and Thursday at 10.00 am.

I have had a meeting with all the other parties in the House and we have discussed the legislative program between now and the end of this sitting. It is my intention that the House will rise for the next break at the end of next week; so in order to ensure that there is enough time for us to deal with the legislative program, which includes the budget, the House should sit for some extra hours each week.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [4.39 pm]: I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I appreciate the situation in which the Government finds itself in needing to get its legislative program through the House, and I am also conscious of the fact that many members are keen to have available to them before the House rises answers from the Government to questions that they have asked. I take this opportunity to ask the Leader of the House whether he will remind his ministerial colleagues of the value of delivering to the House answers to as many of those questions as possible -

Hon N.F. Moore: We take this just as seriously as you did when in government. We will be doing exactly the same.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I am encouraging the Leader of the House, in a spirit of cooperation, as we are cooperating with him, to cooperate with us -

Hon N.F. Moore: I agree. I think we should do exactly what you did to us when you were in government. That is only fair.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I would appreciate it if the Leader of the House could advise his ministerial colleagues of the value of expeditiously answering as many of those questions as possible.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 3) 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 June.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and passed.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 4) 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 18 November 1999.

HON N.D. GRIFFITHS (East Metropolitan) [4.41 pm]: The Australian Labor Party is very concerned that this Bill be read a third time sooner rather than later. The Government should be more than a little embarrassed by this Bill.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Why should we be embarrassed?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I think Hon Simon O'Brien, in particular, should be embarrassed by it. This Bill is being dealt with in June 2000 after the 2000-01 budget has been brought down. That is fascinating accountability and parliamentary

management. I remind the member, who is beginning to glow with the embarrassment that his government colleagues should be feeling, that it is typical incompetence.

Hon Peter Foss: Who is embarrassed?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I know the Attorney General is very embarrassed.

Hon Peter Foss: No, I am not.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: Perhaps he does not care about management or dealing with matters with an appropriate sense of timing. This Bill is to do with payments made under the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act of 1997 for the financial year ending 30 June 1998 and also for capital payments made during the year ending 30 June 1999 under the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act of 1998. The Bill deals with capital payments made in the years ending 30 June 1998 and 30 June 1999, and we are dealing with this matter in June 2000. The Bill was first brought into the other place late last year. It then reached this place and it has been dealt with fairly late in the piece, based on what the Leader of the House said a few moments ago on the Government's legislative program and when it is proposed that this House rise for the winter recess. In particular, the Bill deals with a sum in excess of \$270m for the financial year ending 30 June 1998 and a sum in excess of \$24m for the financial year ending 30 June 1999. In each case it is said that these payments were of an extraordinary and unforeseen nature, as is required under the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Acts of 1997 and 1998. In each case, the relevant provision is set out in section 5 of the Acts. Then the expenditure is to be made as set out in section 28 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Given that these payments are of an extraordinary and unforeseen nature, what is indeed extraordinary is the timing whereby, once again, we must deal with the matters in June 2000. The matters have been the subject of comment in the other place, and it is not my intention to speak about any of them at length. As was the case with the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 3), the requests were made for the most part during the course of the relevant financial year and the approval was given. No good reason has been forthcoming for the delay in bringing these matters before the Parliament, and in particular before this House, so the process can be completed. I note, as with the previous Bill, a continuing history on the part of this Government of relying on these measures for substantial items of expenditure. That process needs to be looked at carefully, and it should be examined closer to the time the expenditure is incurred. For the most part we are dealing with matters which were the subject of consideration a long time ago. The contention has gone out of the matters of expenditure, but the fact remains that it is a very incompetent exercise to be dealing with this Bill in June 2000. Notwithstanding that, we support the Bill. So the Government does not suffer any more embarrassment - it is having an overdose of embarrassment - I am keen that the Bill proceed at a reasonable pace so we can get it off the Notice Paper. We are very concerned to assist the Government in its legislative program. It is a pity it does not have the same concern in helping itself.

HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan) [4.48 pm]: I take this opportunity -

The PRESIDENT: I do not have to remind the member of the rules on this Bill. As the member knows, it is of a narrow scope.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am aware of that, Mr President. I want to raise an issue which is outlined under attachment 1, which details capital expenditure excesses and the items in the 1997-98 financial year as they specifically relate to the area of education for a sum of \$14.993m. This expenditure relates specifically to the implementation of the local area education planning initiative, a number of aspects of which I raise. I am concerned that detail on the almost \$15m expenditure is very scant as it would be nice to know for what it is appropriated. However, once again the Opposition is not given access to this information. Anyone who had anything to do with the local area education planning process -

Hon Barry House: It was discussed during the estimates committee hearings.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: At this year's estimates committee?

Hon Barry House: We are a year in front, are we not?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I am glad everyone is on the ball. We are talking about an appropriation for the 1997-98 financial year.

Hon Simon O'Brien: This is for the 1998-99 financial year.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is irrelevant because Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich is speaking to the question before the Chair.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Thank you, Mr President. A mistake has been made either in the attachment or the Bill itself as they record different financial years. I have no idea whose mistake that is; nevertheless, I am amazed that almost \$15m expenditure is sought through an appropriation. A key reason for the local area education planning initiative was that it would result in the restructuring of school districts, and some schools were to close and others -

Hon Barry House: It involves the time lag between the new facilities being built and the old assets being sold, such as with the schools at Scarborough and Swanbourne.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Therein might lie part of the reason for the money being sought by appropriation, but I am not sure whether it is the full explanation. Maybe the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education could provide that information. When the policy was released in May 1997, the Labor Party expressed grave reservations about what it would achieve. We were sold this policy by the Government - much to our displeasure in many cases - on a number of

underlying principles, and a claim that the policy would deliver positive educational outcomes. However, much conflict has arisen since 1997 concerning this process, which has been embraced by the Government as a means of rationalising schools throughout the education system. Reports in *The West Australian*, particularly over the past week, on children's educational outcomes indicate that this initiative has done very little, if anything, to achieve improved educational outcomes. I remember in 1997 in this place asking the minister representing the Minister for Education at the time whether any work had been done on educational outcomes or benefits which would result from the local area education planning process. Reports this week outline that one in three students has difficulty reading and writing - I am not sure that this initiative has resulted in improved educational outcomes.

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The parliamentary secretary has a view very different from mine, and my position has not changed since the policy was introduced in 1997; that is, this policy is about the economics of education, rather than good and effective education. I am not sure that students have better educational opportunities or improved access to curriculum or facilities than they had prior to the implementation of this policy. I am not sure how we will measure the outcomes of local area education planning. Frankly, I do not think the Education Department has the foggiest idea how it will measure educational outcomes or, indeed, whether it can measure the economic outcomes of the model. It seemed like a fairly good idea at the time. Unfortunately, it has been problematic for the Government. It might have saved some money, as that was its underlying reason, but it has caused political pain.

Schools have an important role to play in local communities. Whether the parliamentary secretary likes it or not, when a community is told that its heart will be ripped out through its local high school or primary school being taken away, one usually has a battle on one's hands. That is indisputable, and has been the case when this process has been embraced. I understand that the local area planning process is reaching a conclusion in Bunbury. People do not want a super school in Bunbury; however, locals believe that the minister will ignore the community view and do as he pleases.

Hon Barry House: How do you know that? The minister has not got the report yet.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I know because I have a sneaking suspicion that many of these decisions are determined before the process is embarked upon. I took an active interest when the process occurred at Kewdale. I was amazed by the number of parents who said they were totally against the proposal and against the direction the minister was taking. The minister was like a bull in a china shop and would not listen to reason. At the end of the day he closed the Kewdale Senior High School. The Government can go through the motions of a process. However, if it thinks that the people are stupid and do not know what is going on it is very much mistaken.

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I welcome the opportunity to continue my remarks on the local area education plan and the fiasco which it has proved to be. I return to the original objective of the LAEP program and what it was intended to provide. Page 8 of the Government's propaganda in the document titled *Education for the 21st Century* states -

Local Area Education Planning aims to improve educational opportunities for all students by considering schools in groups, and developing forms of organisation which increase access to the curriculum in quality facilities.

Through Local Area Education Planning students will receive:

- access to an improved range of curriculum;
- improved access to specialist staff; -

I doubt very much that is really happening. The document continues -

- access to improved facilities.

Supposedly that is what students should have benefited from since May 1997. The point I make is that there appears to be little correlation between the Government's rhetoric and what happens in practice. If we are to believe the report of *The West Australian*, and we have no reason not to believe the report which was commissioned by the federal education -

Hon Peter Foss: You never believe anything you read in *The West Australian*.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs does not know what he is talking about and he has commissioned a report which is entirely wrong?

Hon Peter Foss: You never believe what you read about anything in *The West Australian*.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I would not agree with that. The Government has had its embarrassing moments with the previous Minister for the Arts on the rocking horse. I know that the Attorney General has had problems with -

Hon Peter Foss: Do you not support helping people with motor neurone disease?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I do not have a problem supporting them, but the Attorney General is particularly down on *The West Australian* for whatever reason, and he should keep that between him and *The West Australian*. I do not want to get into it. The point I am making is this matter was reported in *The West Australian*, and the article was based on a report commissioned by the federal education minister. I have faith in the work of whoever wrote this report, because, having practical experience in education, I at least have some insight and knowledge of how the system works.

There appears to be a huge gap between what was promised through the local area education planning program and what has been delivered. I am not convinced that students are any better off as a result of the LAEP program. I do not believe students have improved educational opportunities, access to an improved range of curricula or access to specialist staff. The LAEP program has proved to be big on rhetoric and short on delivery. The findings of the report commissioned by the federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs showed that 20 per cent of students had poor literacy and numeracy skills and needed specialist attention. In some areas, the need for specialist attention was as high as 30 per cent. That is astounding. If the LAEP program were effective, that sort of attention would be delivered. The program is clearly ineffective because, to the best of my knowledge, there has not been any substantial improvement in numeracy and literacy skills of students in this State.

The report also outlined a number of areas that caused problems, such as children being moved between schools too often, which disrupts long-term strategies to tackle problems. The Western Australian Government is a major cause of the problems in that area. It has been instrumental in shifting students from one school to the next to facilitate the local area education planning process. I could make further comments about the report's findings, but I have made the point that what was promised would be delivered has not been delivered.

I am still concerned about the process at the local community level. The process is clearly outlined in the document *Education for the 21st Century*. I have already made the point that discrepancies exist between what should happen on the ground and what does happen. Concerned people in a variety of communities do not feel they are heard by the Minister for Education. The Opposition is concerned this will be repeated in other communities. The LAEP program involves four stages of planning. The first stage involves the development of a draft plan that should occur with stakeholders which is based on the identification of educational opportunities. This is done by looking at the respective needs of a school and, more specifically, the best ways to establish groups of schools. Following that, a process of consultation is undertaken with the school community. Some people argue that the process is flawed from the onset because the development of the draft plan - the first stage - does not involve or include consultation with the community. This problem has the potential to emerge in other cases.

I followed closely the LAEP processes in Scarborough Senior High School and Kewdale Senior High School. In those cases, the district offices and school administration teams developed the draft plans and the options. The options were given lip-service but were not taken seriously. Someone from the Education Department or the minister's office directed that Scarborough Senior High School and Kewdale Senior High School should close - end of story. The education offices were told to go through the process and make them look legitimate for political purposes. The shame of it all is that good, community-minded people and interested parents, students and staff freely gave their time to be engaged in a process which, to all intents and purposes, was flawed. That was my experience. I welcome the opportunity to highlight that problem. The problem starts with the development of the draft plans, which identify the educational opportunities. Key stakeholders are excluded from that process. They are included only when the local community is given input, after the options have already been determined. That is unacceptable. The consultation period can sometimes be fairly extensive. The plans go backwards and forwards between the district education office and the school level, where they are coordinated. Parents are usually involved and everybody thinks they are moving towards a decision that is reflective of the school community. In the next stage, the minister decides to approve the plan or refer it for further local consultation.

Members can guess how that works: If the local community says it wants the school closed, the minister approves the plan. If the community says it does not want the school closed because it is important to the community and the children, the minister determines that more community consultation is required until people are brought around and make the same decision as he has made. The flawed cycle continues. I have grave concerns, as I understand an LAEP process is occurring in Bunbury. I am not sure how long the local community has been engaged in that process.

Hon Bob Thomas: Over 18 months.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: That demonstrates the extent to which the communities view LAEP as a serious matter in which they are able to assist in determining the outcome. The processes for Kewdale Senior High School and Scarborough Senior High School took a similar length of time. At the end of 18 months of input, people have a reasonable expectation that their views will be taken into consideration. From what I have seen, that does not appear to be the case. I do not know of any case in which a school earmarked for closure has not been closed, irrespective of what the community wanted. The Government has not been up front about this process. The minister should at least say to local parents and communities: "Don't waste 18 months of your time if you do not want to do what I want, don't want to think like I do and don't want to make the same decisions as I do because, at the end of the day, you are wasting your time". At least that would be an honest process. People could then at least determine whether they want to waste their time. It is a con to encourage people to participate in a process which, ultimately, will achieve the outcomes sought by the district superintendent and the Minister for Education, rather than educational outcomes for the benefit of the students and the local community involved. In concluding, I seek from the parliamentary secretary an accurate breakdown of the \$14.993m, and an indication whether it is for some asset disposal lag or whether it has other components.

Hon Barry House: I will find out for the member.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I thank the parliamentary secretary.

HON BOB THOMAS (South West) [5.51 pm]: The Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 4) 2000 sets aside \$24m in schedule 2 under the Treasurer's Advance for the year ended 30 June 1999. More than 60 per cent of that \$24m is allocated to the Education Department for the local area education planning program. Like Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, I seek

a breakdown of how the money was spent. Like Hon Ljiljana Ravlich, I have great concerns about the way this program is operating, especially within my electorate in three local area education planning processes.

Hon Barry House: Which you have done your best to sabotage. You should be concerned about them!

Hon BOB THOMAS: I find that extraordinary coming from one of the most negative members in this House. I have taken a keen interest in this process because I have been asked by parents and members of the school community to take up the matter on their behalf. They are extremely concerned about this Government's agenda. Three local area planning processes are taking place within my electorate to which I refer tonight; namely, in Albany, Busselton and Bunbury.

I understand that the Government sold the local area education planning program on the basis that it would provide students with access to enhanced curriculum opportunities and improved teaching staff and educational facilities. The three programs run in the South West Region with which I was involved have not achieved that outcome. The vast majority of parents to whom I speak about the local area education planning program see it as another example of this Government's trying to deliver education on the cheap. It is typical of this Government's approach to the delivery of all services, be it health, education or law and order. This local planning process is another example of the Government's trying to deliver services on the cheap.

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I do not intend to take up the interjection even though the member repeated it.

This process gained notoriety in Perth in the western suburbs and the Kewdale-Belmont-Cannington area. In each of those two cases, the communities were given a fate accompli which saw a couple of schools close, and the colloquially termed "super schools" imposed on the communities.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Which schools?

Hon BOB THOMAS: I refer to Scarborough and City Beach in the western suburbs. For the benefit of the member who interjected, the western suburbs are suburbs west of this place in Scarborough, City Beach, etc.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You referred to Kewdale and Belmont.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I mentioned two programs in Perth. One in the western suburbs and one in the Kewdale-Belmont area. Is that clear to the member?

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Yes, thank you.

Hon BOB THOMAS: We have established that the member is numerate, and understands what two means. When I refer to the programs in the western suburbs, I thought he would understand I was talking about the Scarborough-City Beach area.

The minister gave the community a fate accompli in both of those processes; that is, they were to have super schools. The minister was not prepared to listen to the communities; he completely overrode them and imposed his will. He did so because it was cheaper to deliver education in that manner.

Hon Barry House: We would not be building the Shenton College, which will cost \$10m plus, if nothing had been done.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The parliamentary secretary confuses the capital cost of these schools with the recurrent cost. The recurrent costs of providing educational service in those areas is cheaper under the LAEP program, which has been foisted on the community. The Government is amalgamating a number of schools -

Hon Barry House: Will you disregard the capital cost, as though it does not matter? So producing a state-of-the-art educational facility does not count!

Hon BOB THOMAS: The Government wants to deliver education more cheaply in those areas. The public is aware of that.

Hon Barry House: I would not have you looking after my books, mate.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I would not volunteer my books for the parliamentary secretary to look after. The public will not want the parliamentary secretary to look after its books for much longer either. This is a major issue in Busselton, Albany and Bunbury. Parents in those areas are worried that this Government will impose its agenda on the community, and leave an inferior education system to the current provision. Parents in Albany and Bunbury do not want a super school or senior campus, but want the senior high school to retain its years 8 to 12 identity.

Hon Barry House: Are you trying to pre-empt the process in Bunbury? It is not finished yet.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I will refer to that process.

We went through the process in Albany over about the past three years. It took two years to reach the stage achieved in September of last year when the minister came to Albany and announced an education package worth about \$40m. However, it was flawed.

Hon Barry House: Didn't you want any money spent on educational facilities?

Hon BOB THOMAS: It was a capital cost of \$40m.

Hon Barry House: Are you dismissing it as insignificant?

Hon BOB THOMAS: No, but it is flawed. It delivers the wrong design in educational facilities for Albany. We will see the closure of the Albany Primary School and its relocation at the Middleton Road oval at Albany Senior High School. The major capital works involve road realignment in the area, as well as redeveloping Albany Senior High School and building another oval at the back of the school. At the same time, the Government allocated \$2m or \$3m to a much-needed upgrade at North Albany Senior High School. It gave a commitment that when the enrolments at Albany Senior High School and North Albany Senior High School reach a certain level - I think it is 1 100 students - a junior school will be built at Bayonet Head.

Sitting suspended from 6.01 to 7.30 pm

Hon BOB THOMAS: I am not sure of the trigger point of enrolment numbers at Albany and North Albany Senior High Schools for construction of a new high school. Perhaps Hon Muriel Patterson can tell me.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: The term is usually "a critical mass".

Hon BOB THOMAS: Yes. Will 1 100 or 1 200 enrolments trigger the construction of a junior high school at Bayonet Head?

Hon Muriel Patterson: It is a five-year plan. The priority is the construction of the primary school and then one school after the other from then on.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Yes, but there is an enrolment number at the two senior high schools which will trigger construction of a junior or middle school at Bayonet Head. Once that occurs we will see conversion of one of the senior high schools into a senior campus with a middle school on the same site and the downgrading of the other senior high school to a middle school. One principal will head the senior campus and there will be a significantly reduced number of heads of department.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Where will the senior campus be located?

Hon BOB THOMAS: The Government is not sure. I suspect it will be at the North Albany Senior High School because there is more land there.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: It could be located with the technical school.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The North Albany Senior High School is next door to the Great Southern Regional College of TAFE and across the road from Agriculture Western Australia. That may enable a common use of agricultural facilities. For example, the laboratory facilities at Agriculture Western Australia could perhaps be used by some of the TAFE students because Albany TAFE does not have many science facilities.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Doesn't it have a significant viticulture program?

Hon BOB THOMAS: It has an aquaculture program. I am not sure whether the curriculum contains viticulture, other than perhaps some of the more mechanical processes of wine making.

It is my guess that the senior campus will be located at the North Albany Senior High School because it has sufficient land for expansion. There will be probably 1 200 year 11 and year 12 students in the senior school and 800 or 900 students in the middle school on that site. I am sure it would not be possible to have the senior campus at the Albany Senior High School.

However, I and almost all of the parents and certainly the vast majority of the teachers to whom I have spoken are opposed to this concept. They want a year 11 and 12 identity to be retained at both North Albany and Albany Senior High Schools. However, they recognise there is a need for high school educational facilities in the very fast-growing Bayonet Head area. It is important that a long-term plan is in place to accommodate that.

I am pleased the Government has at least taken that into account through the local area education planning process and is making plans for a school to accommodate years 8 to 10 at Bayonet Head. Members will be aware that Bayonet Head is the area in which most of the new land releases are occurring in Albany, where the rapid population growth is and, consequently, where most of the families with young children are located. It is where extra education facilities are required. However, we should not be building a junior high school to accommodate years 8 to 10 at the expense of the accommodation of years 8 to 10 at Albany and North Albany Senior High Schools.

Some very high profile people in Albany, such as Dr Darcy Smith and Mrs Barbara Cyprian, believe that we would be better off having smaller high schools rather than a very large senior campus with a huge number of year 11 and year 12 students. It is their view that we need smaller community-based high schools at which students receive some sort of pastoral care and are treated as individuals rather than as part of an amorphous mass in a senior campus.

This concept is not being well received in Albany. I heard on the grapevine recently that the minister believes the idea has been very favourably received in Albany. I can tell him it has not. This will come home to bite him and the Government over the next six to eight months because of strong opposition to the concept.

I am concerned that the money allocated in the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 4) 1999 for the local area

education planning process has been allocated to a flawed process. The process began in Albany about three years ago. The concept was sold to the people in Albany as a means of engaging the local community in an exercise to properly plan for the educational needs of the Albany area into the mid-term future. That planning process was supposed to be based on the technical information provided by government agencies and the Bureau of Statistics as well as the aspirations of local parents and the community. However, it seems to me that that process was hijacked by the Government when it set its own agenda, which was to replicate the senior campus concept that had been introduced in Geraldton and ram that down the throats of the communities of the western suburbs, and also of the eastern suburbs - in Hon Derrick Tomlinson's region - around Kewdale and Belmont. I have gone to Geraldton and have spoken with the former principal of John Wilcox Senior High School, Mrs Kathy Ritchie, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the senior campus concept which had been introduced in Geraldton. However, there are two significant reasons that that concept does not lend itself to application in Albany, Bunbury or Busselton. Firstly, there were two senior high schools in Geraldton: Geraldton Senior High School, which was very highly regarded, and John Wilcox Senior High School, which suffered from some stigma. The problem was that because there is no zoning in that area, most of the parents opted to send their children to Geraldton Senior High School, so John Wilcox Senior High School became the poor relation and did not have the critical mass of students at years 11 and 12 to deliver all of the options that could be delivered at Geraldton Senior High School and elsewhere in the State.

When the concept of a senior campus was introduced, all of the year 11 and 12 students were located on the one site, the year 8 to 10 students were located on both sites, and the teachers were shuttled backwards and forwards between the two sites. That gave a small cohort of students from Geraldton the opportunity to take electives that they could not have taken had John Wilcox Senior High School continued in its current form. The Geraldton campus also introduced a student-based learning concept - I do not know the correct term for it - where five teachers were allocated to each group of 100 students as they came into year 8. Those teachers progressed all the way to year 12 with those students, got to know them intimately and were able to provide them with not only an educational service but also a pastoral service.

I asked Mrs Ritchie whether we needed to have a senior campus in Albany in order to implement that process, and she said we did not; we could do it with the existing year 11 and 12 students. Although some of the teachers were not particularly enthusiastic about the concept, I thought it seemed pretty good and that we should consider providing resources to the schools to allow them to deliver that sort of educational program rather than go through the cumbersome process of uprooting everything that exists and is working well in Albany in order to introduce a concept that is being wound back in other parts of the country, such as Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Another problem is that teachers in Geraldton are specialising in upper or lower school, and some of those teachers will be locked into teaching in lower school for a long time. We all know that because lower schools have larger class sizes and a number of kids who are there because they must be there and not because they want to be there, it is a hard grind for those teachers who are locked into that lower school teaching, and that will cause some problems. However, the significant issue that was raised with me by the parents and teachers in Albany is that 95 per cent of the students at Albany and North Albany Senior High Schools can get the electives that they choose in years 11 and 12. We know that for some students, that sixth elective is like throwing a dart into a dartboard: They do not have a driving ambition to take a sixth elective but take it because they need to take it. That is not a good enough reason for us to change the way we deliver education in Albany. The parents are not very happy about this process, and I believe we will hear quite a lot more about it in Albany.

However, I am more concerned about the process in Bunbury. The \$14m that has been allocated to the local area education planning process in this Treasurer's Advance Bill for 1999 is a lot of money. The LAEP process in Bunbury raises significant concerns for me and for a large number of the parents to whom I have spoken in Bunbury. It has been a very polemic process in Bunbury. I believe it is more than a coincidence that this so-called consultation process with the community resulted in the LAEP committee being given a number of options which coincided with the sorts of options that were being put by the Government for Bunbury in 1995-96. Most of those options revolved around the establishment of some sort of college or senior campus in the precinct between Edith Cowan University and the South West College of TAFE on Robertson Drive, which, as most members will know, is next to the Bunbury Health Campus to the south of Bunbury. Various options have been put for a senior campus, which include the closure of Bunbury Senior High School or its downgrading from a senior high school to a middle school, along with the downgrading of Newton Moore Senior High School and Australind High School.

It is interesting that as far as I am aware, none of these options included the construction of a school at Eaton. When the budget was released some weeks ago, I could find no reference to the Government's committing itself to the construction of either a junior or senior high school at Eaton. However, the very day after the budget was released, the member for Mitchell, Dan Sullivan, sent to all of the people in Eaton a pamphlet with a big headline saying, "Got it" and indicating that the budget contained an allocation for the construction of a school at Eaton. The pamphlet then listed all those things which I have been articulating in that community which justified the need for a school in Eaton: The rapid population growth; the large number of students from Eaton - about 350 - who are going to Australind High School; the extreme overcrowding of students at that school; and the Dardanup Shire Council's enthusiasm for the shared use of facilities, such as the oval and the library. There was a furore over that and it was quite clear to the community that there was no money in the budget. There is reference in the budget to the need for a school, which should be built by about 2004. However, I mentioned that so I could then advise the House that all the principals in the area - Collie, Bunbury, Australind, etc - were asked to shred the list of local area planning options that had been sent to them recently. It is my understanding from my sources down there that they then went back to the drawing board and hastily included reference to the need for an Eaton high school. This highlights my concern about this process.

When the process first started about 18 months or two years ago, Dr Barry Bastow, the district superintendent of education for Bunbury, was involved. I have a high regard for him and, in my view, he is a very hardworking and impartial public servant who does his job well. He has helped me on a number of occasions with those very complex constituent inquiries that all members get. I found him to be extremely helpful. However, I have been to a number of meetings at which John Sherwood, Pauline Meemeduma and other members of the community have accused Dr Bastow of lying and of indicating that the community generated the LAP options which were then circulated and about which the community was consulted. They have said that Dr Bastow said that particular committee meetings workshopped these concepts and that their genesis was the workshop itself. Those members of the community to whom I have just referred say that that is not the case and that they were superimposed by Dr Bastow. I was not at those meetings and I cannot say whether either person is correct. It indicates that this process is not accepted.

I have been to meetings which have been attended by hundreds of people. Many of them are my friends and I sit and talk to them. They are particularly concerned about the options that have been developed for Bunbury which will see the closure of any one of those three senior high schools in the area or their downgrading to junior high schools. It is interesting that many people whom I consider to be conservative voters are saying that this is the sort of issue they are prepared to march in the streets about. They are particularly concerned about options which show either the closure of Bunbury Senior High School or its downgrading to a junior high school. Some of the arguments put forward for that indicate that the high school was built many years ago and that its facilities are not as good as the modern high schools that are being built and, therefore, the best option is to close it. The principal at the school, Mrs Saunders, spoke at one of the meetings which I attended. I conservatively estimate that there were 300 or 400 angry parents at that meeting. She said that for as little as \$3m - which is what is being spent at North Albany Senior High School - she could make it into a state-of-the-art senior high school. Many people in Bunbury are concerned that the Government wants to close that school. A lot of people are speculating that the Government is being driven by the value of the land. Members will know it is on a hill overlooking the back beaches and is prime real estate. It would be a terrible tragedy for that school to be bulldozed, because I believe it has significant heritage value. It was one of the first senior high schools to be built in country Western Australia. Perhaps Albany Senior High School was the first.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Geraldton.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Geraldton, was it? The Bunbury Senior High School was built at the same time as Albany Senior High School because it has the same design. It is a commanding building overlooking the sea. It has such an aesthetic appeal about it that it would be a tremendous place at which to teach. Some of my friends teach there and they are excellent teachers. The education environment at Bunbury is great. I have the greatest respect for the administration at that school. The concern in Bunbury is that this process is a farce and that the various options were superimposed on the community through this so-called consultative process. However, the Government had its own agenda and the end process was a fait accompli. That led me to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education in Parliament on Thursday, 11 May -

- (1) What assurances will the minister give the House that the views of parents will be acceded to in deciding the final model?
- (2) What mechanisms are in place to ensure that these views are objectively collected and collated?
- (3) Will the minister guarantee that the parents will be given the final say on the establishment of the senior campus in Bunbury?

The answer I received was -

- (1) In making the final decision, the Minister for Education will consider all the options developed by the consultative committee, and all the community responses following the consultation process.

I do not believe that is correct. The answer continues -

- (2) The consultative committee, comprising parents, school staff and community representatives, will assist the district director in compiling the consultation report. This committee has the responsibility of ensuring the consultation report contains and accurately reflects all the community responses to the options paper.

I can tell members that it will not, because the members of the community are not happy with the options that have been foisted on them. This is the crunch. The third part I asked was whether the minister would guarantee that parents would be given the final say on the establishment of the senior campus in Bunbury. He may as well have said no, because the answer was -

- (3) Following a wide community consultation process and taking into account the community responses to the options paper, the Minister for Education will make the final decision on the structure of secondary education for the Bunbury area.

He will not listen to all of the parents in Bunbury. He will not take into account the views of that community.

Hon Peter Foss: He just said that he will take them into account.

Hon BOB THOMAS: He will not.

Hon Peter Foss: He has to make the decision because he is the minister; that is his job. You have no idea of accountability.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon BOB THOMAS: It is interesting that the minister made that interjection, because he is the one who is still saying that there was no opposition to his arts Bill. We know that that is not correct. I asked the Minister for Education whether parents will have the final say, to which he virtually said no. He will railroad this change through in Bunbury in the same way that he railroaded the senior campuses through in the eastern and western suburbs of Perth. The community will not tolerate that approach.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education interjected on me earlier, when I did not want to lose my train of thought on an issue.

Hon Simon O'Brien: It must have hit you pretty hard!

Hon BOB THOMAS: It hit me as hard as a wet lettuce! He said that I did not understand the difference between capital and recurrent expenditure when I referred to the Government's delivering education on the cheap. I spoke about this LAEP process being a mechanism for the Government to cut costs and provide education on the cheap in Western Australia. The parliamentary secretary could refer only to the capital cost of building the new educational facilities, which is typical for a member of this coalition Government.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Isn't that what you're talking about?

Hon BOB THOMAS: I refer to capital and recurrent expenditure.

Hon Simon O'Brien: This Bill is about capital, not recurrent, expenditure.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The LAEP process involves capital and recurrent expenditure. It is typical of this Government to be interested only in building monuments, be it senior campuses, belltowers -

Hon Peter Foss: Or a tunnel, which is very popular.

Hon BOB THOMAS: - or a leaky tunnel. Members opposite are concerned about building monuments to themselves.

Hon Peter Foss: It is called infrastructure, which you never built when in government.

Hon BOB THOMAS: During our 10 years in government, we built a university and three new schools in Bunbury. This Government is still in the process of building its first school there in its seven and a half years in office. The Attorney General should not talk to me about providing infrastructure! This Government does not understand the difference between social and capital infrastructure. It is interested only in building monuments to itself. That is why it will get into trouble with this planning process.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: It turned Consumer Affairs into so-called Fair Trading under Hon Peter Foss!

Hon BOB THOMAS: It is an oxymoron! With reluctance, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and passed.

BILLS - RETURNED

1. Guardianship and Administration Amendment Bill 1999.

Bill returned from the Assembly with amendments.

2. Acts Amendment (Evidence) Bill 1999.

Bill returned from the Assembly with an amendment.

PROSTITUTION BILL 1999

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendments Nos 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 23, 25 and 27; the substituted amendment for the Council's amendment No 24; the new clause 66; and the consequential amendments to schedule 2 made by the Council.

REVENUE LAWS AMENDMENT (ASSESSMENT) BILL 2000

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [8.06 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to implement a number of measures to improve the equity and efficiency of the taxation arrangements of the State. Amendments are proposed to the Stamp Act 1921 and Land Tax Assessment Act 1976. Although I intend in this speech to only broadly outline the measures proposed by this Bill, an accompanying explanatory memorandum provides members with more detail concerning each of the proposed amendments.

The Bill is structured in three parts. Part 1 of the Bill contains preliminary provisions including the commencement dates of the measures proposed. Part 2 seeks to amend the Stamp Act to allow the commissioner to reassess a stamp duty liability once an assessment has been issued; to prevent the use of the corporate reconstruction exemption provisions for avoidance purposes; and to correct an anomaly whereby modifications to a truck trailer may attract additional stamp duty. I will now turn to each of these proposed changes in more detail.

Reassessment power: As a result of the decision in the Supreme Court case of *Venture Management Limited v Commissioner of State Taxation*, significant limitations were placed on the power of the commissioner to upwardly correct a stamp duty liability once an assessment had been issued under the Stamp Act. This inability to reassess stamp duty matters is of concern as revenue potentially due to the State could be forgone if an assessment error is made. Until recently, no significant loss to the revenue had arisen as a result of this limitation. However, a recent decision in the Supreme Court in December 1999 highlighted these concerns. In that case, a duty liability of approximately \$200 000 could not be collected because the court found the manner in which the commissioner issued the assessment to be incorrect. If the reassessment power had existed at that time, the allocation of the duty between the documents and transactions involved could have been rearranged to ensure the proper amount of duty was paid. Although no other cases of such significance have arisen to date, the threat to the revenue is both significant and ongoing.

The amendments in this Bill authorise the commissioner to increase a stamp duty liability if an assessment has been incorrectly made, providing the reassessment is within five years of the original assessment. The power exists to disregard this limitation if the original assessment was based on false or misleading information. A similar power already exists in the stamp duty legislation of all other jurisdictions, as well as in all other taxation legislation administered by the commissioner in this State. It should also be noted that the ability exists within the Stamp Act to downwardly correct an assessment through the formal objection and appeal mechanisms. The Bill proposes that these changes will be prospective and assessments issued by the commissioner prior to the commencement date of these amendments will not be capable of being increased. It is also noted that a comprehensive assessment regime that will apply in a consistent manner across all tax lines will be included in a taxation administration Bill which is currently being prepared.

Corporate reconstructions: The second set of changes contained in this Bill affect part IIBAAA of the Stamp Act, which relates to exemptions for corporate reconstructions. In 1996, the Government introduced this exemption to remove the stamp duty burden which would otherwise prevent groups of companies from adopting a more efficient corporate structure, providing there was little or no change in the underlying ownership. However, the policy of this exemption was, and still is, aimed at excluding relief where the purpose of the reconstruction is to strip the assets of previously unrelated companies or to package group assets for on-sale to unrelated parties. Late last year, certain practices emerged indicating that attempts were being made to manipulate the exemption in order to package assets into a company structure under the guise of corporate reconstruction, greatly reducing the amount of stamp duty otherwise payable on the sale of assets to an unrelated purchaser.

The Government takes a dim view of these practices and in no way apologises for the additional constraints placed around the exemption by the measures in this Bill. The amendments in this Bill are consistent with the overall policy of the exemption, but reinforce the integrity of the conditions that the body corporate receiving the exemption for an asset transfer should have a three-year pre-association and remain associated with the corporate group for a period of five years after the transfer.

The amendments proposed are twofold. They seek to close down a potential weakness in the legislation exposed by a particular exemption application which sought to circumvent these conditions by a series of transactions which had no commercial efficacy apart from the minimisation of stamp duty. They also introduce a general anti-avoidance provision designed to deny the exemption where transactions are considered to provide stamp duty relief where none was intended to be given. This would include attempts to asset strip or asset package, or where the restructure would otherwise assist with the avoidance of stamp duty.

In this regard, it should be noted that the legislation was initially drafted in 1996 with a public-interest test, which would have allowed an exemption to be disallowed where it was considered that a transaction was not consistent with this principle. However, as a result of consultation with industry prior to the introduction of the legislation, the provision was removed. The industry views that resulted in the removal of the provision from the earlier draft were based on the principle that the black-letter law should be robust enough to withstand non-qualifying purposes. Industry considered that an anti-avoidance provision created uncertainty in the exemption, with parties to transactions never having any degree of comfort that qualifying transactions would be exempted. It is apparent from the transactions that triggered these amendments that, in the absence of an anti-avoidance provision of the type proposed, the black-letter law was not robust enough to repel concerted efforts by practitioners operating in this area to defeat the association requirements of the exemption. Those practitioners who are unhappy with the new requirements associated with this exemption, including the uncertainty created by the anti-avoidance provision, should look firstly to their own to cast blame.

The Government originally introduced the exemption with an expectation that it would be used for the purposes for which it was intended. It is now clear that such expectations have not been met, with the consequence that the previous degree

of certainty surrounding the exemption will no longer exist. Fortunately, no damage to revenue has been suffered as a result of the emergence of these attempts to circumvent the intent of the exemption provisions. The anti-avoidance amendment is proposed to operate from 25 October 1999, the date the Government announced its intention to legislate to strengthen these provisions. This will mean that any pre-determination given by the commissioner on or after that date or any exemption similarly granted will be subject to this greater level of stringency. The Commissioner of State Revenue has advised that he is aware of only one transaction on exemption that has been given that will have the stamp duty relief overturned as a result of these changes. Furthermore, where a pre-determination has been made on or after 25 October 1999, but prior to the time these provisions become operative, the legislation allows the commissioner to overturn that pre-determination should he believe that avoidance is contemplated.

Notwithstanding these changes, it is considered that these provisions will continue to assist Western Australian companies, or bodies corporate owning Western Australian assets, to adopt efficient corporate structures. Since this stamp duty relief was introduced in October 1996, 157 exemptions have been allowed with duty forgone totalling nearly \$200m. The largest beneficiary of this relief has been the mining sector, which has accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the relief provided to date. It should be emphasised, however, that the actual cost of the scheme to government is difficult to determine, as there is no method of determining whether a reconstruction would have proceeded if stamp duty remained payable.

Truck trailers: The final amendment to the Stamp Act proposed in this Bill relates to stamp duty imposed on the issue and transfer of motor vehicle licences. An anomaly in the legislation was recently highlighted whereby a modification to an existing five-axle truck trailer, referred to as a "dog" trailer, attracted further duty. The modification resulted in the creation of two distinct trailers, referred to as a "dolly" and a semitrailer. The modification creates a change in vehicle category for one or both of the new vehicles, which are subject to Australian Design Rule certification prior to registration as individual units. Under current legislation, if the new semitrailer is not modified to the extent that requires re-certification, the issue of the semitrailer licence is exempt from stamp duty under item 9(2) of the third schedule to the Stamp Act. However, if re-certification of the semitrailer is required, the vehicle is treated as a new unit and stamp duty is chargeable on the market value of the semitrailer. Regardless of the stamp duty treatment of the new semitrailer, the new licence issued for the "dolly" will create a liability to further duty.

In the above case, the owner of the vehicle paid stamp duty on the original purchase of the vehicle and was liable to further stamp duty on at least one of the two newly-created vehicles. This is considered to be inequitable as the vehicle ownership has not changed, nor has the market value of the vehicles increased. The Bill proposes to amend the Stamp Act to address this inequity, such that the licensing of any vehicles that undergo similar modifications to those outlined will be exempt from duty if the vehicles are licensed in the name of the same person, both immediately before and after the modifications.

Part 3 of the Bill seeks to amend the Land Tax Assessment Act to -

ensure that land owned by a statutory authority that is liable for land tax includes vested land; and

provide a land tax exemption where a home is held by a mortgagee for the purposes of a mortgagee sale, subject to certain conditions.

Land vested in statutory authorities: In regard to the first of these changes, the Port Authorities Act 1999 was proclaimed on 14 August 1999 and provided, among other things, that port authorities would no longer be agents of the Crown or have the status, immunities and privileges of the Crown. In terms of competitive neutrality, it was intended that ports would be subject to land tax from the year of assessment commencing on 1 July 2000. Land tax is based on the ownership and usage of land at midnight 30 June and is calculated on the aggregate unimproved value of all taxable land owned. The land values are determined by the Valuer General.

In implementing this policy, a more general question arose regarding the ownership of land that was vested in a statutory authority by the Crown. Legal advice obtained by the Commissioner of State Revenue suggests that land does not vest in the statutory authority as owner, but rather in a more limited sense being for the purposes of management and control of that land. Prior to this legal advice, it was believed that statutory authorities were owners of vested land for land tax purposes, and liable statutory authorities have been paying land tax on that basis. The amendments contained in this Bill are therefore necessary to put beyond doubt that non-exempt statutory authorities will have a liability to land tax in respect of both owned and vested land.

To ensure that refunds are not necessary as a result of this change in interpretation, the Bill provides that these amendments will operate from 1995 to validate those previous land tax assessments that have been paid in respect of vested land. The additional net revenue expected as a result of the application of these changes to port authorities is estimated to be \$200 000 annually.

Mortgagee sales: The second land tax measure contained in this Bill seeks to address an inequity in the land tax regime. A landowner is currently eligible for a land tax exemption for his principal place of residence, provided he owns and occupies that residence as at 30 June. Situations have arisen where home owners have defaulted on loan repayments secured by a mortgage over the home, and the mortgagee has taken vacant possession of the home for the purposes of a mortgagee sale. Under the law as it stands, if the home owner has ceased to occupy the home at 30 June, he will not be eligible for a residential land tax exemption. In these circumstances, the mortgagee does not become the owner of the property; however, as the home owner no longer occupies the property, the home owner will be liable for land tax. The amendment proposed in this Bill will allow an exemption in such cases where the owner involuntarily ceases to occupy the home, subject to certain conditions. These conditions are that -

the owner of the home is not receiving a principal place of residence exemption for another property which he may have moved into; and

no rent or other income is derived from the land during the period that it is required to be vacant.

The amendments will apply to the assessment year commencing 1 July 2000 and subsequent years. The cost of providing the exemption is expected to be minimal due to the small number of properties likely to be held by mortgagees at 30 June in any year. I commend the Bill to the House. For the information of members, I table the associated explanatory memorandum.

[See paper No 1075.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

BULK HANDLING REPEAL BILL 2000

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon M.J. Criddle (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON M.J. CRIDDLE (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [8.16 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the Bulk Handling Act 1967 and deal with certain consequential and related matters. The Bulk Handling Act was enacted in 1967 to regulate the bulk handling of grain by Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. The repeal of the Act is necessitated by the imminent restructure of CBH. CBH is currently a cooperative company registered under the Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943. For the past three years the board of directors has been considering a restructure of the company to an entity that will enable it to operate to optimal advantage in today's competitive market. The Bulk Handling Act contains some restrictive provisions that were suited to a past era. Much of the Act is now obsolete. In order for a restructured CBH to operate effectively in today's competitive market, the Bulk Handling Act needs to be repealed.

The CBH board sought the support of the Minister for Primary Industry for legislative changes required for the restructure to go ahead. Given that any restructure of CBH required approval by 75 per cent of its grower shareholders, the minister gave a commitment to introduce the legislation to repeal the Bulk Handling Act that is now before the House. A number of objectives were set by the CBH board, against which various structural options were assessed. These objectives were -

- to maintain WA grain grower control over the activities of CBH;
- to allow CBH to grow and take advantage of business opportunities that would strengthen existing operations, improve the quality of services provided and add value for WA grain growers;
- to secure ownership of the company for WA grain growers;
- to provide access to capital funds on a competitive basis;
- to enable CBH to meet increasing levels of competition as the grain industry deregulates; and
- to enable grain growers to realise the value of the equity they have built up in CBH.

It is important to recognise that CBH is not only grower owned, but also has been grower funded through handling charges and tolls paid by farmers over the life of CBH. As a result growers have developed a truly valuable asset, and the time has now come for growers to have total control of this asset. After three years of extensive research and consultation, the board decided that the model best able to meet these objectives is a public company registered under the Corporations Law. The proposed restructure will take place in accordance with the procedure set out in the Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943. This requires a scheme of arrangement for restructuring to be approved by 75 per cent of the company's shareholders and sanctioned by the Supreme Court. Because the restructure of the company depends on the approval by shareholders of the scheme of arrangement proposed by the directors, this Bill makes the repeal of the Bulk Handling Act dependent on that approval. The Bill provides a number of alternative triggers for the repeal of the Bulk Handling Act. This is to allow the repeal to take effect at whatever point is necessary to ensure the success of the restructure. However, all this is dependent upon the approval of shareholders. If the scheme of arrangement is not approved by 75 per cent of the shareholders, the repeal of the Act will not take place. The scheme of arrangement is due to be put to the vote of shareholders between August and October this year. When that happens, the shareholders must know that the repealing legislation, contained in this Bill, has been passed and is ready to take effect at the appropriate time.

It is important to understand the model of the proposed restructure of the company's capital structure. It is proposed that this be converted from \$2 ordinary shares into -

- (1) grower shares that are non-transferable voting shares with no right to receive dividends; and
- (2) investor shares that carry rights to dividends and return of capital with restricted voting rights.

Control of the company will remain with growers through the ownership of grower shares and their attaching voting rights. Investor shares will reflect the value of the company. This is very similar to the recent restructuring principles of AWB Ltd.

CBH has also listened to its grower shareholders and announced it will not be seeking listing of investor shares on the Australian Stock Exchange in the scheme of arrangement to be voted on by shareholders. It has also endorsed a weighted voting system that proportionally favours smaller growers, while at the same time recognising the important role larger growers play in the Western Australian grain industry.

Investor shares will be allocated according to an equitisation formula based predominantly on the number of tonnes of grain delivered by the grower in the previous 10-year period. Ten per cent will be reserved for people who currently hold shares issued under section 31(6) of the Act.

The Bill consists of three parts: A preliminary part, a part containing amendment, repeal and transitional provisions and a part containing some consequential amendments to other Acts. Clause 7 will amend section 31(6) of the Bulk Handling Act to allow CBH six months from the date of entry of a grower's name in the register in which to issue the shares; that is, six months from 31 October. By that time, assuming it is approved, the restructure and repeal will be completed. In the event that the restructure and repeal do not proceed, the amendment to section 31(6) will remain, but the lengthening of the time by which the shares must be issued will not affect the way the company operates and will not prejudice growers.

Pursuant to the agreed equitisation principles of the restructure, it is intended that "new growers" - who have not previously delivered grain to Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd - will receive investor shares based on the tonnages delivered during the current season. However, it is not intended that they receive any additional investor shares as a result of the cancellation of grower shares held only since 31 October this year. Such shares would be in the nature of a windfall, given the short association of these growers with CBH. This is why the commencement provisions contained in part 1 differentiate between clause 7 and the rest of the proposed Act.

As a cooperative company, CBH has served its members and this State well. When the shareholders of CBH have voted to move to a restructured company, the Bill will be ready to repeal the Bulk Handling Act 1967. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORISATION BILL 2000

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [8.24 pm]: I move -

That the Bill now be read a second time.

The Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill authorises the Treasurer to make certain payments and advances for authorised purposes chargeable to the consolidated fund or the Treasurer's Advance Account within the monetary limit available for the financial year commencing 1 July 2000.

The monetary limit specified within clause 4 of the Bill represents an authorisation for the Treasurer to withdraw up to \$300m for the financing of payments and advances in the 2000-01 financial year. The purpose for which payments and advances may be made from the Treasurer's Advance are set out in clause 5 of the Bill and remain unchanged from those authorised in previous years. Where payments are made in respect of a new item or for supplementation of an existing item of expenditure in the consolidated fund, those payments will be charged against the fund and submitted for parliamentary appropriation in the next financial year.

Members will be aware that a number of activities, such as works and services, are initially financed by way of a Treasurer's Advance which is subsequently recouped from the department or statutory authority on whose behalf the service was performed.

The Bill does not seek any increases for this or the following financial year. It simply establishes the existing limit in 2000-01. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 1) 2000

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [8.26 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to grant supply and to appropriate from the consolidated fund the funds required for the recurrent services and purposes for the 2000-01 financial year, as detailed in the "Agency Information in Support of the Estimates". Total expenditure is estimated to be \$7 557 245 000, of which \$885 945 000 is permanently appropriated under special Acts, leaving an amount of \$6 671 300 000 to be appropriated to the services and purposes identified in the schedule to this Bill. I commend the Bill to this House.

Debate adjourned until a later stage, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

[Continued on page 7775.]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 1999 and Forest Products Bill 1999 - Report

Hon Christine Sharp presented the report of the Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development in relation to the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 1999 and the Forest Products Bill 1999, and on her motion it was resolved -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

[See paper No 1076.]

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 4 May.

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [8.28 pm]: I am not the lead speaker on this matter; that is the Leader of the Opposition. However, I can say that the Labor Party will support this Bill, for which it has waited a long time. I quote from the *Hansard* of 18 August last year -

Hon M.J. Criddle: The legislation will be in this place within about six weeks, and I hope you blokes put it through the Parliament in double-quick time. That is the challenge for you.

Hon TOM HELM: No worries. Does the minister want a guarantee?

Hon M.J. Criddle: Yes, I do.

Hon TOM HELM: The minister has got it from me.

In August, we were told the Bill would be in this House in six weeks.

We are now doing what we promised we would do; that is, we are supporting the Bill. However, this Bill does not deal only with road safety measures; it also contains revenue-raising measures. It is a limp-wristed attempt to deal with the carnage that has taken place on our roads.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: That should not surprise you.

Hon TOM HELM: No, it does not. It must have been a difficult task for the minister to get this through the party room. The provisions correcting the anomaly in identifying people who have exceeded the speed limit have raised the ire of some backbenchers.

The second reading speech gives the flavour of this Bill. The minister tells us that, between 1961 and 1998, 9 650 people died on our State's roads, and that more than 30 000 people were seriously injured. He went on to say that he was sure that members of this Chamber had been touched by those statistics.

I have previously mentioned in this House that my stepson Liam was very nearly killed in a road traffic accident that could have been avoided if he had been aware of the consequences of his actions. Liam has recovered from that accident, but it has taken 12 months for him to do so. He did \$20 000 worth of damage to a stationary vehicle not far from home. If the vehicle had not been there, he probably would have gone through the wall of the front bedroom of a house and killed two people in bed. As it was, he gave them a severe shock. He also gave his mother and me a shock. However, he was the most badly affected. He learnt a serious lesson about the consequences of drink driving and driving without due care and attention. He had had too much to drink and he fell asleep at the wheel. He had taken the trouble to organise a skipper, but that person drank too much and was stopped by the police and taken into custody. In his drunkenness, Liam took the car keys, jumped into his mate's car and drove home. The accident happened at 4.00 o'clock on a Saturday morning.

During the debate in August last year, I told the minister that we should engage in lateral thinking about accident prevention in this State. He replied that that was what he intended to do. However, I can see nothing in the Bill that reflects what we discussed during that debate. We discussed exposing offenders to traffic accident victims, either by attending the casualty ward of a major hospital or going out with ambulance personnel or the police to accidents. If such a program were implemented, people like my stepson would not have to be nearly killed to learn a valuable lesson.

All of my sons have been good drivers, but they have also been reckless. Their driving has not improved the older they have become and the more experience they have gained. In fact, the records show that young men do not understand that

the road traffic rules are there to make the roads safe for everyone, including them. I do not believe this Bill contains measures that will be any more of a deterrent to people committing those flagrant breaches of the law than what is in place now. It is important that beating the speed cameras or trying to outrun or outsmart the police does not become a game. Legislation must not be about collecting revenue or putting people in jail for driving without a licence, but about teaching our young people that the consequences of their actions are death, major injuries and trauma not only for them but also for their friends and families and people who can be described as innocent bystanders who are run down or are driving their vehicles in a responsible manner. I see nothing in this Bill that will assist that situation.

I am trying to understand the amendments. I hope the minister can tell me that I am mistaken. However, there is nothing in this Bill that will help to save young people's lives on our roads, except for the advanced driver training program. I commend the minister for including the clauses in the Bill that try to address that. It is important to achieve best practice in driver training. However, it is equally important to understand the consequences of being a bad driver or an irresponsible driver.

We referred in the debate in August to the television advertisements showing the consequences of speed and drunk driving. The latest advertisement showing the consequences of not using a seatbelt is very effective. However, those advertisements do not show the gory details; they leave it to our imagination. I do not think that leaving such a scenario to the imagination is an adequate way to discourage young people from driving in a way that causes motor accidents. It is not what the minister led me to believe would occur. We are faced with putting more revenue in the Government's coffers and doing nothing to change that popular theme that bad driving is all right if we are not caught.

I am somewhat disappointed in the thrust of the Government's message of blaming speed for all deaths and damage on our roads. I hope the minister will be able to advise, if he has not done so already, the outcome of the proposal to experiment with increased speed limits on certain sections of the more remote roads. I would like to know how many accidents occurred on country roads with the higher speed limit. Like a number of people on this side of the Chamber and perhaps on the other side of the Chamber, I believe that if we increase the speed limit people may reach their destination sooner and avoid suffering from fatigue for too long, which plays a major part in some accidents.

I welcome the clause in the Bill that will bring Western Australia into line with a nationwide system of driver licences and avoid the necessity of seeking a new licence when we move interstate. That follows the thrust of a universally recognised and legitimate driving licence.

From the second reading speech it can be seen that the minister has focused on young people and the number of them involved in traffic accidents. The minister said that although only 12 per cent of Western Australia's population is between the ages of 17 and 24 years, that group represents 28 per cent of those killed or seriously injured on the roads. The minister said, and I agree, that an improved learner driver training system is one way to go, perhaps with the opportunity to start at a younger age. He then said that it is not enough to provide a better driver training program. He mentioned in the second reading speech that it is recognised internationally that improved hazard perception skills and increased driving experience are useful tools for stopping the carnage on our roads.

Part of Liam's experience - and my son and my other stepson shared that experience - was awareness of what happens when people flout the road rules. It was an important lesson for them and, even though their skills may not have improved, their concentration while driving has certainly improved. It is not enough for people to be perfect drivers; they need the additional experience of, not necessarily being involved in a traffic accident, but awareness of the consequences of flouting the law. One way of getting that experience without the personal trauma is by attending the accident and emergency section of a hospital or accompanying the police on their patrols.

Of course, we welcome all the measures in this Bill, which include lowering the age at which learners can obtain a permit, and allowing increased hours of driving with an experienced driver to be counted towards obtaining a drivers licence. It is bizarre that these measures will be taken to improve people's skills through licence provisions but, at the same time, some people lose their licences because of bad debts. That is crazy, and consideration should be given to repealing that provision. I ask the minister to indicate in his response to the second reading debate whether any progress has been made on driver training programs for those who have lost nine or 10 demerit points.

The Bill does not go far enough, but some of the measures in it will be useful. Surely, it is just more of the same. Of course, it is commonsense for the licences people obtain to drive all classes of vehicles to apply in all States of Australia. It will be useful for drivers to be able to use their licences in all other States. However, one issue springs to mind with regard to the different speed limits in the States. People could be proficient at driving at speeds up to 110 kilometres an hour and then be licensed to drive on Northern Territory roads, many of which have no speed limits. How will people be taught the different skills required when driving on roads with no speed limits? However, that is on a different scale. I am also disappointed that the minister has not used this amendment Bill to highlight the differences between driving on dirt roads and sealed roads.

I would like the minister to indicate in his response why some of the things that we talked about last August and that are provided for in this Bill could not have been done by regulation. I know that option is not available to the Government for revenue-raising or financial measures, but some of these things could have been done by regulation, and I am sure the Labor Party would have been only too willing to support the minister had he done that. The Government has not talked about how much this Bill will cost car owners and people who want to get a drivers licence, but the Bill certainly does contain revenue-raising measures. The minister may tell us that the Bill will be a negative cost to his department, but I think there are problems with that.

There may be some equity in not forcing people who drive company or hire vehicles to own up to being the driver of a vehicle that has been caught by a Multanova for speeding, but it does not have much to do with improving safety on our roads, because that person must have already been speeding to be picked up by the camera, and that is where this Bill falls down substantially. It contains few measures to deal with people who drive too fast when the conditions are not appropriate. Some people have suggested that the maximum speed limits on our roads should be reduced even further. An issue that I have raised with the minister a number of times is the speed limits on the Narrows Bridge while the roadworks are going on. In the beginning, the speed limit was 50 kilometres an hour even when no-one was working on the bridge. I have been picked up for speeding during roadworks, but it seems to me that to impose a speed limit when no work is going on just encourages people to flout that law, and that is a pity. I believe the minister and his staff should ensure that Main Roads makes its contractors take down the "reduce speed" signs when there are no hazards such as workmen -

Hon M.J. Criddle: We have done that.

Hon TOM HELM: But nothing has changed. The speed limit is now 60 kilometres an hour, and there is a large sign there permanently. I have done 65 or 70 kilometres an hour in that 60-kilometre an hour zone when there are no workmen and no plant or machinery and there are no more hazards than there are normally, and a big truck has passed me doing over 80 kilometres an hour. We condemn people because we are talking about the lives of workmen, and that is a fair and proper thing to do. When a person knows nobody is there, that person will speed at the wrong time and someone will get hurt and it will be a workman. That should be prevented. I am not talking about reducing our road traffic accidents by reducing the speed limits. People can use appropriate speed as long as they have the skills to do that and as long as they are aware that any other inappropriate action does not end up like a television screen going blank when an accident happens, but ends up with people being in hospital or in the grave.

I am flicking through the pages of the second reading speech, and for the most part it refers to revenue raising matters. I am sure the minister will explain why we need that. That emphasises my disappointment. In the second reading speech the minister used some examples from other States to demonstrate the effect of speed cameras. He told us that the community attitudes to speeding in Victoria, for instance, have changed dramatically and that 76 per cent of people support the use of speed cameras to detect speeding drivers. Then he said that speed cameras are clearly having the desired effect on driver behaviour. That may be right, because when I see a Multanova, I have this uncontrollable urge to test the dip switch on my headlights. I do that a couple of times to ensure they are working and that the telltale light on the dash is working. I know that a number of drivers - maybe not all Western Australians - have a desire to test their main beam during the day. That is the effect of the speed camera: We look after each other. If people test their headlights, someone might think there is a speed camera around and they will reduce their speed accordingly. We all know that is exactly what happens. That suggests to me the opposite of what the minister has said in that people are advising each other there is a camera around so they will slow down when they go past it, yet, as soon as they have passed it, they go back to their original speed.

I am pretty careful and I am lucky to have cruise control on my car. I look at doing 69 or 79 kilometres an hour - eight or nine kilometres an hour above the speed limit almost all the time. I try not to speed because I nearly lost my licence due to the number of demerit points. In the 20 years I have been in Australia, I cannot say that I have had an accident which has involved another car. I have hit kangaroos, cows and emus, and I suppose I should tap wood because other people on the road have been as careful as I have. The speed limit signs are there for a purpose almost all the time. I think people respect them in large part. Younger people respect them less and I think the minister mentioned that in his second reading speech. However, it is annoying when I see the reduced speed limit on country roads or on the Narrows Bridge when there is no need for it.

I can argue my views of what the Bill should contain until the cows come home, but I will not do that. I hope that the minister will be able to respond with his views on what is contained in the Bill and on the raft of amendments that he has brought into the House. It may be that some of the matters I mentioned will be addressed. I cannot see them on the Supplementary Notice Paper.

I return to my stepson Liam's accident. As a result of the accident our family has had correspondence with the Commissioner of Police and the Minister for Police as we believe that the Road Traffic Act should contain a provision that requires the police to take the keys to a vehicle from a driver who has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and that they must not be given to anybody else in the car. The police should have the responsibility to either take the occupants of the car home or send them home by taxi. The driver obviously must go with the police to be processed but the others should get a lift home. We were advised that the commissioner's rules provide for that. Procedure "AD-56.20 Duty of Care - Alcohol Affected Drivers and Passengers" provides guidelines to the police when assisting females and juveniles to get home by providing them with a taxi, by ensuring they have money for a taxi, or by taking them home. The speed with which they carry out that process may be dependent on how good looking a girl may be! However, the officer in charge of state traffic coordination has provided some good advice in that procedure. The pity is that the two police officers who picked up Liam's friend assumed that he took the car keys with him, whereas he gave the keys to Liam. That should not have happened. The policeman assumed that Liam was walking to the nearest all-night garage to phone for a taxi. I remind members that this was early in the morning, the police were coming off shift and they had to process Liam's friend before they could get home. I am not being critical of them. Am I my brother's keeper? I agree that people must look out for themselves much of the time. However, in this case they did the right thing. The driver was only marginally over 0.08 blood alcohol content. They had started drinking in the afternoon, had been to some nightclubs and discos, and Liam had not restrained his drinking as he believed he would get home easily. That did not happen. I have

some advice for the police to follow in these circumstances and there should be amendments to the legislation to reflect this advice. If this procedure is best practice - I would say that it is - and reflects the intention of the police in carrying out their duties, surely this is an opportunity to have the procedure included in the Road Traffic Amendment Bill so that people can see the way this Government is going. Whatever it costs the recipient of that best practice is also fair as he or she can pay the next day rather than, in Liam's case, nearly pay for it with his life that night.

This matter eventually went to the Ombudsman, who made comments about the circumstances surrounding Liam's accident. The Ombudsman was of the view that the police did not carry out their procedural responsibilities as well as they might have, the result being that we nearly lost our son. I raise this matter because the minister said we have been touched by this sort of thing, and I know other members in this place have been touched in the same way, some perhaps more severely than I have. We must understand that this Bill contains an awful lot more of the same. It contains measures that have been tried and tested for a long time and, frankly, found to be wanting. We need a radical new approach. The Road Safety Council, whose job is to look after our interests, does not take on board some of the advice that people offer it. It is not gratuitous advice. I hope it does not think that my advice and ideas are gratuitous they are offered for the very best of reasons. Politicians feel that their egos are being pricked because we have a responsibility and we know what is best. In this case, until we stop losing young people and others on the roads, we must take radical measures.

The minister said in August last year that we would have a Bill that reflected some of the matters we debated at that time. Frankly, I do not think the Bill reflects any of that debate. I wonder whether the minister in his response will comment on how long it would take to put regulations together that would reflect the matters I am talking about, or why they could not be prepared. In spite of the criticisms it has, the Labor Party supports this Bill. Those are my reservations and disappointments.

HON NORM KELLY (East Metropolitan) [9.03 pm]: The Australian Democrats support the Bill. I will preface my remarks by quoting some statements and figures which come from a document put out by the Road Safety Council entitled "Reported Road Crashes in Western Australia 1998". It gives members an indication of the work that is still required in this State to improve its recent record of road trauma. Page ii of the executive summary of the report indicates that in 1998 in Western Australia there were 199 fatal crashes, in which 223 people lost their lives. Fatalities were 13 per cent higher than in 1997. Since 1996 Western Australia has had one of the highest road fatality rates per head of population in Australia. It is the highest road fatality rate of any State in Australia. Page 3 of this report indicates that in 1993 Western Australia had a rate of 12.2 fatalities per 100 000 head of population. Five years later in 1998 that rate was at 12.2 once again. In the intervening years it increased to over 14. The figures in this report show that there has been no significant improvement in the rate of road fatalities in this State for a number of years. The total number of fatalities has not improved since 1983, when the rate was 200 fatalities a year. It is a pity to see that Western Australia has gone from being one of the leading States in the country to the worst State in the country. This is a worthwhile document for getting a good handle on not only fatalities, but also the number of casualties and causes of casualties, and it also highlights the over-representation of males in these figures. I am well aware that, when it comes to targeting road safety campaigns, it is the information contained in reports such as this that helps to identify how road safety campaigns should be carried out.

The other day an award was given for the impact of advertising. A television advertisement put to air late last year won the award for being very effective in conveying the message on drink-driving.

Hon M.J. Criddle: The impact and difference in appreciation of those advertisements is interesting.

Hon NORM KELLY: That is right. Hotel interests expressed opposition when the advertisement was first aired because it depicted hotel and not home-based drinking. We must look at these campaigns in their entirety. There is a need for both approaches. Hotels benefit quite well from the level of advertising of mid and low-strength beers for sale at hotels. I applaud the Government's campaigns for improving the awareness of the seriousness of drink-driving.

The Bill introduces the nationally agreed drivers licence classifications which will bring Western Australia in line with national classifications, so that discrepancies do not occur from State to State. That must be an improvement, especially with the level of movement of individuals throughout Australia. When I first came to Western Australia I had a truck drivers licence. It was a very straightforward procedure to transfer that licence to Western Australia. It enabled me to drive trucks of 40 tonnes or more, even though I gained my truck drivers licence by driving trucks of a little over 2 tonnes tare in New South Wales. It also meant that I was driving trucks of 40 tonnes in New South Wales. There is a danger when drivers obtain licences by passing the barest-minimum test and there is no facility to test those drivers at the other end of the scale.

Hon M.J. Criddle: I hope you will agree with the legislation on drivers when it comes through this place, because it addresses those issues.

Hon NORM KELLY: That is right. Quite often one sees a driver training school using a small Dodge truck with a very light trailer, obviously training to the bare minimum.

Hon M.J. Criddle: That will change too.

Hon NORM KELLY: Yes, that is why we need licensing and training in line with the reality of what drivers will experience on the road. To that end, I applaud the new driver training scheme for young drivers, which enables 16-year-olds to apply for a learners permit and also allows for a graduated system to be established.

Much concern has been expressed about how young drivers can obtain licences so close to the time that they reach the legal

age for drinking in hotels and the like. An inexperienced driver who is able to go drinking is a very dangerous combination. I must admit in my younger days I was probably as prone to those dangers as others. The graduated scheme will bring about longer training and will require training to be supervised. Some debate is taking place as to the number of hours of supervised training that need to be imposed. Originally the Government proposed 60 hours and it has now come back to only 25 hours of supervised training.

Hon Kim Chance: For drinking or driving?

Hon NORM KELLY: For driving.

Details will be contained in regulations. Therefore, it is important that this House be given an opportunity, whether or not it moves for disallowance, to debate the merits or otherwise of the regulations once gazetted.

The Bill makes it compulsory for photographs and signatures of the holder to appear on drivers licences. A letter I received from the Road Safety Council and the Department of Transport indicated that 35 to 40 per cent of drivers opt to have their photographs on their licence. The Australian Democrats support the compulsory appearance of photographs on drivers licences as a good road safety initiative. It will limit the fraudulent use of drivers licences without that identification. At the same time, it is important that the Government makes it as easy as possible for the new arrangement to be put in place. I have supported including photographs on licences for some time, but it was not convenient to arrange for a photograph to appear on my licence the last time my licence was renewed.

Hon M.J. Criddle: We are improving the situation.

Hon NORM KELLY: For that reason, I do not have a photograph on my current licence, but I carry the old card for identification purposes if needed. It is important that we ensure that the storage and use of that database of photographs and signatures is protected; that is, sufficient penalties should apply for any abuse of that information. It should not be used for anything other than purposes set out on the drivers licence.

The Bill also will introduce the means to notify by mail that a licence will be suspended because the holder has racked up a certain number of demerit points. Although the Democrats support this provision, as it frees police time for more important matters, a 100 per cent assurance must be provided that the relevant person will receive that notification. I would like the minister to outline the procedure in this regard in his response to the second reading debate. Will it be sent by registered mail or other means? Will Australia Post give an assurance that the notification will be left only with the person to whom it is addressed? The concern is that they could be left with the partner or a person living with the intended recipient. That is not good enough. An assurance is needed. If given, the Australian Democrats will support that measure.

The Bill also contains other minor points. It will repeal the annual review of the random breath testing program. Western Australia is the only State which requires an annual review of this program. This change should not be seen as diminishing the internal auditing of such programs but as commonsense, as the merits of the program have been demonstrated over many years.

The Bill will also allow nurses to take blood and urine samples from drivers, whereas the current requirement is that blood samples be taken only by a medical practitioner. This is a commonsense and effective change, particularly in light of difficulties in finding a doctor in more remote areas of the State to take such samples, especially within the short time frames involved.

I suppose the most contentious aspect of this legislation has been the issue of driver identification or owner onus. The Australian Democrats support the measures that the Government has placed in this Bill, which require a statutory declaration to be signed in the event that the registered owner or responsible person is unable to identify the person who was driving the car in cases of red-light camera and Multanova infringements. It has been argued by some that the legislation should go further than that. However, I believe that what the Government has placed in this Bill parallels fairly closely what occurs in other States, particularly in Victoria. I understand that this legislation mirrors the Victorian legislation. In Victoria, the number of drivers who are not able to be identified is very low, so the rate of compliance with the infringement notices that are issued is very high. In the letter I received from the executive director of the road safety section of the Department of Transport, I notice that the percentage of traffic infringement notices written off is 5.5 per cent. If that can be reduced to the 1 per cent that apparently occurs in Victoria, it would be a very worthwhile measure. If this system does not succeed to the extent that the Government hopes it will, it is imperative that the Parliament make further amendments to the Road Traffic Act to strengthen those provisions.

There are other arguments about whether a higher percentage of funding should be given to the road trauma trust fund. At the moment, I believe that one-third of the fines go to the trust fund. The Australian Democrats would like that amount to be increased. We would have liked the Government to have acted more quickly to implement these changes. Also, other measures regarding the use of mobile phones in vehicles and the like have not been dealt with quickly enough. When driving down the freeway and seeing so many people using mobile phones, it worries me that their minds are many miles away and are definitely not on the freeway traffic. Other issues are also relevant to road safety, such as the legislation relating to cyclists. I have a serious concern about changing the road rules. I believe that Western Australia will be adopting nationally approved road rules, which could have a detrimental effect on cycleways and the ability of cyclists to use our roads. I will address that matter at another time. I do not intend to take any of the time I have available at the moment to do that.

Bearing in mind the decreasing use of cycleways in this State, the Government should take stronger action to encourage

cycling, particularly in the Perth metropolitan area, rather than detracting from the ability of cyclists to make use of our roads and cycleways. I appreciate that improvements and extensions to our cycleway program have been made. However, the level of participation - that is, the number of people using those cycleways - is decreasing. The Government must work harder to turn that around.

Hon M.J. Criddle: It is not just the Government; the community must recognise that there is some value in that. There are all sorts of points of view.

Hon NORM KELLY: The Government should take a leadership role in encouraging cycle use. When it sees that cycle use is not increasing, it should research why that is so. I know debate is occurring about whether we should continue with compulsory wearing of bike helmets as we have not seen a reduction in cyclist fatalities or casualties since that became law. That is another important issue. The Australian Democrats will support this Bill. It is a good measure. It is a pity it has taken so long to get through the government party room. However, we appreciate that we are finally debating this Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Muriel Patterson.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 1) 2000

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage.

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural) [9.21 pm]: One of the reasons I was anxious to get to my feet was to make the point that I am not the Opposition's lead speaker on this Bill. I am speaking first because others of my colleagues are urgently engaged on parliamentary business elsewhere. I am permitted to say that, as is usual on these occasions, the Labor Party will support the adoption of the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2000. Although this debate is generally marked by reference to anything other than the budget, I have some issues which are very much budget related. However, in reading the budget one could be forgiven for wondering how the relativity is established. I refer to the provision that has been made for a state-funded assistance package for the dairy industry in the event that deregulation takes place in Western Australia. I will divert for a moment from that point, to ease the mind of the Deputy President (Hon John Cowdell) that I may stray off the straight and narrow of the standing orders in relation to a Bill which is before the House. I intend to speak about dairy deregulation issues, but they are issues which fall outside the ambit of the Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill which is currently before the Parliament. Specifically, I will speak on the \$27m state assistance package which is consequential to the Bill, though not a part of the Bill, and thus within standing orders. I will also speak about the dairy structural adjustment package, which is a consequence of a commonwealth Act that is related to the dairy deregulation Bill, but outside the scope of the Bill. I thought I would make that explanation, because it may save your searching through the Bill to determine whether I am within standing orders.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.A. Cowdell): The member will no doubt acquaint me when he is straying beyond those particular bounds.

Hon KIM CHANCE: The Deputy President can rely on that.

The consolidated fund portion of the State's assistance package is something that I want to define clearly because there are two components to the package. There is a sum of \$27m which is detailed in the budget, and there is a further sum of \$10m which is the asset of a state agency, the Dairy Industry Authority. I am referring now to the first component of the package - the \$27m component - which is a multi-functional initiative. In addition, it is proposed that the assets of the Dairy Industry Authority will be made available to the industry participants on the basis of a distribution of shares which reflect the value of the privatised component of the Dairy Industry Authority. Exactly how that is to happen is yet to be divulged or even worked out, but we do know that an interim board will be put in place to oversee those arrangements. It will involve a sum, nominally at this stage, of \$10m.

It is the first of those two components, the sum of \$27m, that I want to raise in the context of this debate. The Government deserves recognition for its willingness to provide a measure of assistance to the industry which comes from the State's own resources. It is over and above the somewhat inadequate restructuring grant that arises from the commonwealth legislation. Western Australia is the only State so far which has offered specific assistance to the dairy industry in the event of deregulation - a point that needs to be recognised and applauded. In acknowledging that fact, members ought not be led to believe that this assistance will accrue to the dispossessed quota holders whose losses throughout the dairy areas of Western Australia, just as in Queensland and New South Wales, will amount to several million dollars. In fact, farmers will see very little of the \$27m which the State has designated as a dairy industry package. Over three years, \$2.23m of the \$27m will go to resolving an unfortunate anomaly which arose from the Capel dairy suppliers missing out on their proper recognition as drinking milk suppliers. I thoroughly support the State Government's initiative in providing that assistance. It was an unfortunate anomaly of the dairy structural assistance package payments from the Commonwealth that they were disadvantaged in the way they were. The disadvantage arose from a difference in definition of drinking milk in the commonwealth Act and market milk in the state Act; however, we can recognise that the State saw the problem early and moved quickly to fix it, and I am glad that it did. It is now becoming difficult to give the House any advice on exactly how the remaining sum of money will be disbursed. We have heard that \$12.5m will be devoted to assisting downstream processing. When I first heard that I made an assumption that the sum would almost certainly go to the owners of the current processing plants, and probably to the new owners of the Boyanup and Capel dairies. However, a number of changes have occurred since then. I then formed the view that the assistance would probably go to National Foods Ltd

(WA) and the Peters and Brownes Group; however in a debate in another place, the minister made it clear that it was not the case. I am now totally confused about where that \$12.5m will go. The Government has not given any indication about its final destination.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: No doubt it does not know itself.

Hon KIM CHANCE: That is not said in jest. I think that is the case. It seems the rest - \$10m - will go to the distributors, on an as yet unknown basis, for various farm consultancy and farm management initiatives that have been talked about but not specified. I have some confusion about that \$10m because the biggest component of that assistance will be a process whereby a farmer hires a farm consultant and receives a \$5 000 grant from the Government to produce a farm plan. Most of us endorse the need for professional planning, particularly in an industry that is facing significant trauma if deregulation goes ahead, and even if it does not. The industry faces trauma one way or the other. My only problem is that, from what I read about how those funds will be disbursed and the processes that will need to occur, the program seems to be the same as a scheme that is already available to any farmer; that is, the FarmBis arrangements. That program has the same number of dollars, same specifications and does all the same things. Perhaps an additional \$10m, specifically for dairy farmers, is to be allocated to the FarmBis program. Even that is unclear. The lack of specificity concerns me.

The only mention I can find in the *Budget Statements* of the \$27m that will come from the consolidated revenue fund is in volume 1 of budget paper No 2. Page 78, under the heading "Major Policy Decisions", lists the sums of \$12.39m for 2000-01; \$10.41m for 2001-02 and \$4.23m for 2002-03, which is a total of \$27.03m. Apart from that specific line item, no item in the budget explains how the Government will spend that \$27m - or \$37m, if the \$10m from the assets of the Dairy Industry Authority is included. Until the report of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs was tabled today, we thought the Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill must be passed by 30 June. Fortunately, we are no longer under that pressure, as the standing committee's report makes it quite clear there is no requirement for the Bill to be passed by 30 June 2000. However, we face the situation in which the House would be under considerable pressure to pass the legislation by next Thursday evening.

Hon Peter Foss: You seem to be straying into debate on a different Bill.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I do not think so.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.A. Cowdell): Order! The member has gone beyond his delineated bounds in this regard and will go back to his original stated intention.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I can understand the confusion. However, I am not straying into the state Bill.

Hon Peter Foss: Aren't you?

Hon KIM CHANCE: No, I am not. The belief that the state legislation had to be passed by 30 June came from the commonwealth Act. Perhaps I can help members by referring to the report.

Hon Peter Foss: I will take the member's word for it.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I will do it quickly.

Hon Peter Foss: I apologise for having interrupted.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I think the Deputy President deserves an explanation.

Hon Peter Foss: I think I also deserve it now.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I am not punishing the member.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Everyone will get his just desserts.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Item 10.11 on page 43 of the report states -

If the DSAP start day is not fixed by a Proclamation published in the Gazette within the period of six months beginning on the day on which the Commonwealth Act receives Royal Assent, Part 2 of the Schedule is repealed on the first day after the end of that period.

The report goes on to state that this effectively gives the States six months during which to repeal those provisions of the state legislation relating to the regulation of market milk. Members believed the State was required to pass its legislation before 1 July because 1 July is the wind-up date for the current commonwealth marketing arrangements - that is, the domestic market support scheme. I think I have defended myself against the charge. I thank the Deputy President and the Attorney General for their reminders.

Hon Ken Travers: They will not do it again.

Hon Peter Foss: Too right!

Hon KIM CHANCE: I had finished the point I was trying to make on that issue. It is worth understanding the relationship between the commonwealth Act and the state Bill. Indeed, there is not, and never has been, a requirement for the State to pass the legislation by the end of this month. I raised the point because, given the uncertainty of how that \$37m will be spent, it would have been bizarre for this House to be forced to pass that legislation before that date. We do not have a clue

how the additional state assistance - which I have already welcomed on the record - is to be spent. Even if there were a requirement for the House to pass the legislation by that date, it should have done so with extreme caution because of the uncertainty about the disposition of that amount of consolidated fund moneys.

I turn now to page 155 of the *2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook* document, which deals with microeconomic reform and which states -

A State assistance package of \$37 million which will provide a range of measures to help farmers deal with the deregulated environment including assisting farmers in financial planning and supporting the development of cooperatives as a means of providing countervailing market power to farmers.

What does a "range of measures" mean? I do not know what is the printing date of budget paper No 3. Unlike other publishers, Treasury does not indicate the date of publication. It is in effect simply dated May 2000, the budget date. I imagine this type was set and approved some months prior to that. For all those months prior to today's date Treasury had the view that the \$37m was designated for a range of measures to help farmers. There was more certainty two months ago about how these funds were to be disposed of than there is now. What range of measures does Treasury have in mind and what range of measures did it have in mind when it wrote this garbage? It says that some of the money will be used to support the development of cooperatives as a means of providing countervailing market power to farmers. What cooperatives? There is not a single proposition before the industry at present, cooperative, corporate or any other form, into which the Government can pour this money; yet we are being asked to approve a vote of \$37m to go to somebody we do not even know.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: It sounds like Joseph Stalin and cooperative farmers.

Hon KIM CHANCE: There is no cooperative out there; there is none in construction; there is not even a proposal for a cooperative in the specific or general sense. However, this is Treasury's information. The fact is that the Government and this Parliament do not have a clue about how that \$37m will be disposed of.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: Any old nonsense for the *Budget Statements*. It is the same with every program.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I will be coming back to page 155 of budget paper No 3, *2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, because the House should be aware of a few other comments in it from Treasury. Nonetheless, we are being asked to, and we will, approve this vote of money. However, on the basis that Treasury has informed us of the disposition of those funds, I begin to wonder whether we are not acting irresponsibly in doing so.

Members may have noted a somewhat guarded comment in item 8.7 at page 16 of report No 53 of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs in relation to the Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill. It reads -

The Committee expresses its disappointment with the advice it has received from the CPU.

The CPU is the competition policy unit of Treasury. I will tell the House why the committee made that carefully guarded statement. At paragraph 8.2 the committee refers to the letter from the competition policy unit of Treasury which stated -

Western Australia's deregulation and agreement to participate in the national restructure package before July 2000 are important to its compliance with National Competition Policy. There is a strong likelihood if Western Australia did not deregulate that Competition Policy payments from the Commonwealth would be withheld.

In item 8.3 the committee's report deals with other matters raised in the letter from the competition policy unit of Treasury in which Treasury sought to outline why it was so concerned. The committee related an example that occurred in Queensland where the Queensland Parliament suffered a temporary suspension of 25 per cent of the national competition payments because it had not fully complied. It was said that if that happened in Western Australia, the deduction would be around \$10.5m. I refer again to clause 8.2. Firstly, it stated that -

Western Australia's deregulation and agreement to participate in the national restructure package before July 2000 are important to its compliance with National Competition Policy.

Let us deal first with the date of July 2000 and then move to the broader issue. The date is transparent nonsense. Anyone who has even casually read the appropriate commonwealth legislation - which is now an Act and has received royal assent - could not help but notice the point I have just read from clause 10.11 of the committee's report. The fact is that it is not necessary to pass the legislation by 1 July or 30 June 2000, because the commonwealth Act does not require it for six months from the proclamation date. That puts the date out to October, not 30 June. Is Treasury incapable of reading legislation? Who put the idea into Treasury's head that this must be done by 1 July? It is a total fabrication. I do not know whether it is a result of incompetence from the competition policy unit of Treasury, or the unit is trying to mislead the Parliament. I am told that if there is a choice between the two, one should always choose incompetence. If that be the case, it is a matter of gross incompetence. I go now to the broader issue -

Western Australia's deregulation and agreement to participate in the national restructure package before July 2000 are important to its compliance with National Competition Policy. There is a strong likelihood if Western Australia did not deregulate that Competition Policy payments from the Commonwealth would be withheld.

What does it lead a normal person to think when that statement is made by such an authoritative source as Treasury? People would think that the agreements under the national competition policy, which is law in Western Australia as it is in the

Commonwealth, imposed a requirement to deregulate. Would that be a normal person's understanding of that? Again, it is a fabrication.

The dairy industry in Western Australia, as with a number of other industries, has already been through the national competition policy requirement. A multidisciplinary committee has reported to the minister, and the minister has, as required by law, conveyed that information to the National Competition Council. The result of that report, in summary, is that although the elements of regulation which work within the Dairy Industry Act 1973 in Western Australia may be found to be anticompetitive, the anticompetitive elements of the legislation have a public benefit which exceeds the cost to the community. It is a legitimate defence provided in the Competition Policy Reform Act. There is no problem if public benefit can be proved. Six months ago the House was advised that this had happened - we have been through the process and this has been signed off - yet the competition policy unit of Treasury saw fit to advise a committee of this Parliament that it was important to deregulate by that date and it was important to our compliance with national competition policy. It went further and said there was a strong likelihood that if Western Australia did not deregulate, competition policy payments from the Commonwealth would be withheld, even though WA had complied with the NCP requirements and no threat had ever been made by the National Competition Council that the payments might be withheld from Western Australia on the basis of its failure to deregulate the industry. Despite all that, of which the competition policy unit of Treasury must be aware, the unit was still prepared to tell a standing committee of this Parliament that it was likely to happen. Why would it do that? Why would it so wilfully mislead the Parliament in the manner it has?

Hon Peter Foss: Are you suggesting Western Australia is under no threat of losing the national competition payments?

Hon KIM CHANCE: Not on this matter, no.

Hon Peter Foss: That is not the way it works. It works on our overall success. We can lose it on one particular example -

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes, as Queensland did.

Hon Peter Foss: - or we can lose it overall by our inability to satisfy the requirement. It will not necessarily exclude us from the process, but that does not mean that it will accept our overall achievements. We can lose it by a combination of unsatisfactory results.

Hon KIM CHANCE: True. I could not agree more. One of the misconceptions about the competition policy payments is that people tend to relate them to the financial assistance grants, which have a specific line-by-line recording. The competition policy payments are a default mechanism where the payment is put before the State, and if the State does not comply in a number of areas, it gets a default payment from the original payment; so the State starts at 100 per cent -

Hon Peter Foss: There are tranches, and there are things that we need to achieve within a given time, and it may very well be that our attitude on the dairy industry is one of the things that is contributing to our loss of one of the tranches.

Hon KIM CHANCE: It may be, but for the fact that our existing legislation has just been approved by the process which is laid down by the Act.

Hon Peter Foss: It has been approved by the State, yes.

Hon KIM CHANCE: It has gone to the National Competition Council.

Hon Peter Foss: Has it ticked it?

Hon KIM CHANCE: I imagine it has. It was some months ago.

Hon Peter Foss: I am not so certain of that.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Surely it would have been reported to the Parliament if it had not.

Hon Peter Foss: As I have said, it works on our overall achievement of the results that it wants. We are certainly going through our process and sending things off and so forth, but that does not necessarily mean that it will be accepted as having been done in an acceptable way. If we went through everything and said it is all fine and marvellous but it did not like our process, we would not do too well.

Hon KIM CHANCE: While I understand that what the Attorney is saying may be the case - and he would be the first to concede that it is supposition on his part -

Hon Peter Foss: I do know a bit about it. I know there is some dissatisfaction with some of the results that we have got.

Hon KIM CHANCE: While I am unaware of the NCC's analysis of this particular review, some guide to its view arises from an analysis of the Senate committee report, which actually dealt with, as I understand it, the NCC's opinion of the various state reviews. It is true, from my recollection of the Senate committee report, that there was some criticism of the reviews that were performed by those States that used the multidisciplinary review approach. That criticism, however, was fairly mild. It was critical to the extent that some of the multidisciplinary committees contained persons who had a vested interest in signing off the process.

Hon Peter Foss: We had some mutterings, and we would expect that, because it is part of the process, but that does not mean that we can quietly disregard the process or not have concerns. We have always been very concerned about our capacity to meet all of the deadlines and the times; and, as you would always expect in this sort of process, there are suggestions that if we do not get this done, something nasty will happen. So far, nothing nasty has happened.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I allow for the possibility that the Attorney General has raised. However, I do not believe that is the case. I do not have much more to go on than has the Attorney in trying to determine what is in the minds of different people at different times, but what I do have to go on is the Senate committee report, and while there was some mild criticism of the process which was involved in the multidisciplinary committee review, there was far greater criticism of the alternative approach which was used by the Victorian Government when it brought in a stand-alone consultant to carry out the review. That consultant was the Centre for International Economics. The Senate committee tore apart CIE's review of the Victorian industry more unmercifully than I have ever seen a parliamentary committee take to a consultant in my life. Anybody who read that Senate committee report would never employ CIE to clean anybody's shoes, let alone carry out an economic review. It is a bit disturbing that I heard recently that an agency in Western Australia had employed CIE for some function - I am not sure what it was. I hope the agency that employed it one day reads that Senate committee report.

Hon Peter Foss: I would hate to have my career totally dependent upon a Senate committee opinion. It does not exactly exercise natural justice.

Hon KIM CHANCE: No, but the Senate committee was largely using the National Competition Council's opinion of the CIE report.

Hon Peter Foss: That might not have had natural justice either.

Hon KIM CHANCE: None whatsoever I would have thought. Leaving that aside, I am still extremely disturbed that we got that advice from Treasury, because when the committee went to Treasury for some justification of the assertions it had made, we got a similar load of nonsense that was not even worth reporting. It does not get better; it gets worse. Ultimately, the committee was provided with no evidence whatsoever to support the assertions made by the competition policy unit of the Treasury Department. I believe the assertions are arrant nonsense. I acknowledge the comments that have been made by the Attorney General. The situation which we have here is so serious and the situation which the competition policy unit of the Treasury Department sought to bring to the attention of the committee is so serious that, if it existed, I would expect that this Parliament would have been informed of the danger that we were about to lose competition policy payments as a result of the way we have dealt with the compliance mechanisms relative to dairy industry regulation. That has not happened. We have had no such advice from Treasury. I believe Treasury has misled us. It has its own opportunity to make an approach to the Parliament, to me or to the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs if it so chooses to try to defend its position. On the basis of what I have seen, I believe that the advice we received from the competition policy unit was worse than useless. I say that from the position of someone who has had great faith in the talented and hardworking people at Treasury. As a result of this advice, my faith has been absolutely shattered.

Hon Peter Foss: I can honestly say that people in the competition unit are very good. It is a very difficult area because nobody is particularly enamoured of the national competition policy. It has been a hard job getting people to comply with the requirements of the policy.

Hon Ken Travers: Were they nobbled by their masters?

Hon Peter Foss: Nobody has been wildly keen on it. By looking at the history of the signing of the national competition policy agreement, you can see there was reluctance. A lot of people do not like it.

Hon KIM CHANCE: One of the problems with the whole national competition policy framework has been that in its construction, it has gone so far from the vision of Professor Fred Hilmer, who is normally credited with being the father of the principles which the national competition policy is said to espouse, that he has been led to disown the national competition policy arrangements.

Hon Peter Foss: A few other things have been added to it.

Hon Bob Thomas: By the coalition.

Hon Peter Foss: No. It was added by Mr Keating.

Hon Bob Thomas: Rubbish!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Attorney General and Hon Bob Thomas will come to order.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I was quite a fan of Professor Fred Hilmer and I remain so. He had a vision of a better and fairer Australia. With our experience of the national competition policy arrangements spawned by Professor Hilmer's vision, I am unconvinced that Australia is better off now, and not worse off, as a result of those arrangements. The way in which national competition policy affects industries, and perhaps more specifically the role of the agencies which were spawned by Professor Hilmer, leaves me less than impressed. We have a ridiculous situation where the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission -

Hon Peter Foss: It was nearly called the Fair Trading Commission.

Hon KIM CHANCE: We can be grateful for small mercies.

There was the ridiculous situation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission persecuting a poor little video store owner because he had the temerity to increase the price of his new release videos by \$1 a night. Yet, automotive gas in Adelaide is half the price of automotive gas in Perth and fuel at the Minilya service station is 20¢ a litre dearer than in a Carnarvon service station.

Hon Peter Foss: What about Norseman?

Hon KIM CHANCE: We should not even travel on the Eyre Highway without a big fuel tank.

Hon Bob Thomas: What about bottled liquefied petroleum gas?

Hon KIM CHANCE: I am grateful for Hon Bob Thomas' interjection. What about bottle LP gas indeed? If members want an indication of the rip off that is occurring with cylinder LP gas, they should read the member for Belmont's recent submission on that matter. I have just done that tonight and it has opened my eyes about what is going on in that area.

Hon Peter Foss: Do you know why? Western Australia is considered to be such an insignificant part of the market that any problem in the Western Australian market does not affect the Australian marketplace.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Possibly. However, I return to my original point: Why is the ACCC persecuting a video store owner for charging \$1 more than the ACCC reckons he should; yet it is prepared to allow what is going on in the fuel industry and in the energy supply industry?

Hon Peter Foss: What about doctors?

Hon KIM CHANCE: What about doctors indeed? The ACCC simply does not have the courage to take on Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas Pty Ltd; it does not have the courage to take on the Australian Medical Association; it does not have the courage to take on BP Australia Ltd; and it does not even seem to have the courage to take on a roadhouse owner at Norseman. What does it matter if somebody charges \$1 more for a video? If I believe I am being overcharged by a video store, I will go to another video store. I will not have to walk far as there is one on every street corner. It is not a problem. Competition sorts itself out, if there is competition. However, in an area where there is competition, such as in video hire, the ACCC wants to make itself a hero.

Hon Peter Foss: The bold gendarmes, is the phrase.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes. In an area where there is no competition, such as buying fuel at Norseman or buying a cylinder of gas at Fitzroy Crossing, the ACCC cannot help out. This is a nonsense, Mr Deputy President. If this was an isolated example of what has gone wrong with the competition policeman, I could perhaps dismiss it. The fact is that it is not an isolated example; it is a systemic problem. We are actually making a situation worse. Members should look at the State's budget papers to see what has occurred with the taxation equivalent regimes. We now go through a ludicrous process of charging an equivalent income tax sum to our port authorities, for example, then we go through a round-robin and give them back that money. The whole spirit of the taxation equivalent regime is corrupted by that, simply because we do not want our ports charging those extra fees to their users. We therefore do not support the spirit of the tax. We know we must apply the tax, so we apply it and give it back to them. This is nonsense. I did not mean to get onto that issue; however, I cannot see the nation benefiting from national competition policy.

Hon Peter Foss: You are criticising how it is carried out rather than the policy.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes, indeed. I am critical not only of its execution, but also of the construction of the agencies and the powers which have allowed those faults in execution. However, that is not a big difference.

Hon Peter Foss: Some state enforcement would have been a good idea.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes. If this is to be the outcome of national competition policy, we would be better off without it. If one of the outcomes of national competition policy is the deregulation of the dairy industry in Western Australia, as the consumer price unit says it is, we would be far better off disposing not of the dairy industry in Western Australia, but of competition policy itself. However, it is very clear that the competition policy unit had a reason for saying what it did. I would dearly love to know what that reason is. Why did the unit representatives choose to tell the standing committee, for example, that the required date was July 2000? Let us examine that question. Apart from the larger question of the review, perhaps they believe that we do need to deregulate the dairy industry. Why did they set that date? What is the significance of that date? It has no significance whatsoever. The commonwealth Act does not require deregulation by that date. That is what leads me to believe that the rest of the advice that they provided to the standing committee was a load of nonsense.

While on the subject of Treasury, I want to go back to page 155 of budget paper No 3. On that page the Treasury advises - I presume it is the Treasury - that the Government will shortly be introducing the Acts Amendment and Repeal (Competition Policy) Bill 2000 to Parliament. That sounds like a lot of fun; I look forward to that. The Bill introduces a number of reforms arising from reviews of the State's legislation. The Bill repeals two Acts and amends 11 Acts. Oh really! Hang on, Treasury is talking about a Bill that we have not heard of yet, the Acts Amendment and Repeal (Competition Policy) Bill. I do not think that the other place has heard of it yet. Treasury is telling us that the Bill repeals two Acts. It then goes on to state -

Two of the major reviews which illustrate the nature of the legislative review and reform are the reviews of dairy and taxi legislation.

Are we to assume that the two Acts which are to be repealed by the aforesaid Bill are the legislative machinery governing the dairy and taxi industries? I do not know whether the page is badly written or whether we are to assume that they are the two Acts which are to be repealed by virtue of that Bill.

I say again that the NCC review of the dairy industry had already been completed, but Treasury did not refer to that matter. The next paragraph reads -

The Government has recently decided to deregulate the dairy industry, which involves principally the removal of restrictions on who can produce drinking milk and how much drinking milk they can produce. This reform will be implemented by the repeal of the *Dairy Industry Act 1973*.

The publication date of this document is May 2000. It tells us that the Government recently decided to deregulate the dairy industry. Is this one of the industries referred to in the previous paragraph? That cannot be the case as the Minister for Primary Industry told us that the industry must be deregulated because the industry asked for it. Surely we are talking about different legislation. Here we are told it is a matter of government policy, driven by the national competition policy agenda, which goes to the core of government policy making. That cannot be right! The minister said that he did not want to deregulate the industry, but was doing it because the industry told him to do so. This is getting more confusing. Page 155 of budget paper No 3 from Treasury continues -

Benefits from deregulation include:

Downward pressure on the price of drinking milk;

Where did it get that from? Every other commentator has stated that the price of milk will rise post-deregulation. All the experience in this State and the rest of Australia with limited deregulation has been an increase in the consumers' price for milk. That experience cannot be right because Treasury told us it is not right! It states that the price of drinking milk will fall. What a relief! The benefits list continues -

A more dynamic outward looking industry in which decisions on milk production are unimpeded by regulation; . . .

How are they impeded now? We already have a completely deregulated manufacturing sector; that is, take away the domestic market support scheme with the 2¢ a litre levy, and there is no regulation. People can produce as much of the stuff as they want! No; Treasury says it will get rid of those impediments. I am glad it told us that as I did not know it before! Page 155 further states -

Compensation of \$108m for loss of dairy quotas and the manufacturing milk subsidy through a national agreement to which Western Australia is a signatory; . . .

What did we sign? Where did Treasury get this gumph? No-one has claimed that any compensation will be paid to anyone. I showed this page to the Director General of Agriculture when he appeared before the estimates committee. I pointed out a couple of things that were stated in this budget paper. What did the director general do when he got hold of page 155? He looked at it, looked at the minister representing the Minister for Primary Industry and looked at other Agriculture WA officers at the table, and they all looked blank. They passed it back to me and said, "We've never seen it before. This has nothing to do with Agriculture WA." They disowned it and said it is nonsense, and that there is no compensation. However, Treasury must be right, and an interesting debate will be held when we get onto the relevant Bill. We may find eventually that cooperatives will spring up all over the place. Farmers will be assisted by a range of measures which the Minister for Primary Industry does not know about yet - but Treasury knows! There will be compensation to farmers of \$108m. Everybody denies this, but it will spring from nowhere. This is a load of nonsense! I do not know what we are supposed to do with these Treasury documents. They are not putting forward the facts. Treasury has provided the Parliament with information which is false and misleading and which displays the most massive incompetence I have ever seen. When an agency such as Agriculture Western Australia is trying to deal with a difficult and controversial subject such as dairy deregulation, and it looks at the document which has come out of Treasury and flatly disowns it - it is not its document; it does not want to know about it as it is wrong - we have real problems. It could be that the issues that the Attorney General raised about my first comments are right. I will allow for that possibility. However, I cannot allow for the possibility of the errors in this document - errors which Agriculture WA officers just disowned - being anything other than massive incompetence.

In the few moments I have remaining I will raise another issue which, in total, became known to me only today following inquiries I made in Canberra. The issue relates to the taxation treatment of the federal restructuring money that will be paid by the Commonwealth to dairy farmers provided they deregulate. We already know that those payments will be made quarterly over an eight-year period; that is, 32 quarterly payments. That sum of money can be taken up front in the form of a discounted payment through the lead banker, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Even though we are expected to pass this legislation by next Thursday night, we do not know exactly what the discount rate will be. We think it could be in the bracket of 23 to 30 per cent, which is a pretty wide bracket. That is what we know, and we are expected to pass the legislation on that. The advice the committee received from the Australian Taxation Office in the matter with which I am concerned is dealt with on page 17, at paragraph 8.9 of the committee's report in relation to the Dairy Industry and Herd Improvement Legislation Repeal Bill.

The PRESIDENT: That will be discussed when we get to Standing Order No 12.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Mr President, you were not here when I made my earlier explanation. I am aware of the constraints I face. As I advised the Deputy President, I will deal with aspects which fit around the Bill, in particular the commonwealth payments which will come as a result of the commonwealth Act, although I have already dealt with that, and also the state government payments which are consequential to the Act but not a part of it.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Kim Chance knows the rules.

Hon KIM CHANCE: The President does not want me to go through it again.

The PRESIDENT: No, I do not.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Neither does the Attorney General.

The committee was advised by the Australian Taxation Office that as a result of the commonwealth Dairy Industry Adjustment Act, the dairy industry structural adjustment payments will be treated as subsidies. I do not need to go any further than that. A friend advised me recently that I should get a life, but last night on the Internet -

Hon Ken Travers: Was that on a chat show?

Hon KIM CHANCE: No, I was on the Internet going through the uniform resource locator www.taxreform.ato.gov.au. It is a wonderful source of advice on goods and services tax matters.

The PRESIDENT: I think Hon Kim Chance should take his friend's advice.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I need to get a life, Mr President. In the pamphlet section under the dairy industry I found a gem at page 34 of "Dairy Farming - The New Tax System". That is an ATO document, and the matter of subsidies is detailed on page 34. The subsidies - the dairy structural adjustment package payments - will be subject to the goods and services tax as a result of that ruling. We have done some further checks today to ensure we are right. The federal restructuring payments to these farmers who will be dispossessed of their quotas will be subject to GST.

Hon Peter Foss: That is one reason we should pass this by 1 July.

Hon KIM CHANCE: The payments are not due until next October.

As well as the 30 per cent discount rate, which is a commercial arrangement between the farmer and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, farmers will also lose 10 per cent of the gross sum - not of the discounted sum. They can claim it as an input credit, but mathematically they start to run out of room to get anywhere. The dairy restructuring adjustment package payment, effectively, will provide up-front a 40 per cent discount, of which 30 per cent is from the Commonwealth Bank, and as the payments come in, farmers will be hit with GST for what is effectively the sale of an asset.

Hon M.D. Nixon: Will the 10 per cent be added or deducted?

Hon KIM CHANCE: It will be deducted. It will come off because it is subsidy payment. I could be corrected on this. I have done the best I could today through the sources available to me including the Internet to get to the bottom of this. The advice from two sources - the offices of Senator Peter Cook and of the member for Corio, the shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - is that inquiries they were able to make in Canberra today indicate that the GST will come off the DSAP payments. I am not swearing to that as a fact, and I have disclosed my sources. However, this is something we need to know before we go ahead with any support for the Bill that might come before us at some time in the future. This is scary. Had the DSAP payments been handled in a different way, we could have removed the income tax burden from these farmers.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon KIM CHANCE: Thank you Mr President and members for your courtesy. I will not abuse it and will finish the point I was on. Had the DSAP payments been made to the States by the Commonwealth instead of to individual farmers, the States could have dealt with the problem of compensating their farmers in a way which fitted within each State's requirements. Every State has a different need and problem, and I am sure that the States would have done a far better job of distributing those payments. We could have removed the farmers' income tax liability, simply by buying back the quotas rather than making this silly adjustment measure. That would also have protected their rights in terms of capital gains tax losses, which could have been carried forward in the amount of the shortfall. None of those losses can be carried forward by farmers now, because no capital gains tax event has taken place. The Federal Government has blown that as well, and if farmers were able to make some kind of a capital gain in later years, there would possibly be \$200 000 of loss as a result of not being able to access those CGT losses. Above all else, we could have avoided that GST problem.

The Commonwealth stands to make a windfall gain of \$300m. It is not putting a single cent of its own money into this. This money is coming straight out of the producers' pockets by means of the consumers' pockets, and the Government stands to make \$300m. I would love to continue, but I will not abuse the generosity of the House.

HON BOB THOMAS (South West) [10.25 pm]: I would like to address four issues tonight. The first relates to something I hope the Minister for Transport will take up and it is with regard to someone who has lost her drivers licence as a result of a Multanova speeding fine; however it was not incurred by that person and she is now overseas seeking an international drivers licence and is not able to obtain one. The second issue relates to this Government's integrity and to statements made recently by members of the Government. The third issue relates to a critical issue in country areas: The impost of the GST on some hospital services in country hospitals even though health is supposed to be zero-rated for GST purposes. Finally, I want to talk about the Bunbury Back Beach enhancement program.

A very dear friend of mine, Eve Marshall from Albany, contacted my office last week and requested some help for her granddaughter who now lives and works in the United Kingdom. I have forgotten the granddaughter's name; however she

is a highly intelligent young woman who graduated from university a couple of years ago. She has since moved to Europe and is now making a life for herself there. She applied for an international drivers licence but was not able to obtain one because, unbeknown to her, she had incurred a fine from a Multanova photograph of her car. She was not driving her car at the time the photograph was taken. She and a friend had swapped cars so that she could drive to Albany - her car is old and not as reliable as is needed to make the long trip down to Albany. She swapped her car for her friend's car, which is much more reliable, and he drove her car around Perth and was photographed by a Multanova when speeding. He readily admitted to her that he was responsible and that he would pay the fine. The granddaughter went off to London thinking that he would pay it. He procrastinated and did not pay it. It was referred to the fines enforcements section of the Police Service. When she went to apply for her international licence she was told she had an outstanding fine. She contacted her grandmother who went to see the local member for Albany who pursued the matter, but nothing came of it. In her enthusiastic desire to help her granddaughter, Mrs Marshall paid the fine herself. As a result, the traffic police said that once the fine had been paid, it was considered to be an admission of guilt.

Hon Peter Foss: That is the end of the process - it is not an admission of guilt.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The young lad who had incurred the fine has admitted that he was the person driving the car and he has repaid Mrs Marshall. The granddaughter in London still cannot get her international drivers licence as a result of that.

Hon Peter Foss: The suspension should be lifted.

Hon BOB THOMAS: That does not matter. She still cannot get it. That is why I have raised the matter here. I would like the Minister for Transport to take the matter up on behalf of my constituent, Mrs Eve Marshall. She has approached the relevant authorities and the member for Albany, Hon Kevin Prince, the Minister for Police, on this matter and it has still not been resolved. Some commonsense must be applied.

Hon Peter Foss: How come she cannot get her licence if the fine has been paid and the suspension lifted?

Hon BOB THOMAS: There is still a problem.

Hon Peter Foss: Do you know what it is?

Hon BOB THOMAS: No. I apologise to the House: I brought the paperwork with me from Albany so that I could speak on this matter, but I cannot find it. I know the outline of the issue, which I have presented to the House. I hope that the Attorney General or the Minister for Transport takes up this matter on behalf of my constituent. There must be some sort of commonsense solution to this. I would like to see that happen.

Hon Peter Foss: I think we need a bit more information. It puzzles me. Maybe there are some outstanding costs.

Hon BOB THOMAS: There could be. Could the Attorney General take it up with his colleague, the Minister for Police, whom my constituent has approached?

Hon Peter Foss: I would like more information than you have got.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The person who approached the office of the Minister for Police is Eve Marshall of Albany. The office will have records. I will endeavour to obtain the information, but I have lost my paperwork somewhere between here and Albany.

The next issue I raise is the matter of this Government's integrity.

Hon Kim Chance: That should be a short speech.

Hon BOB THOMAS: It will be quite lengthy. I am concerned about a number of recent statements made by the Premier and other members of the coalition Government. During the estimates committee hearing in another place, the Premier was reported as saying that there was a lot of interest in the belltower and that regular tours were carried out. He said that those tours were booked out and that it was hard to get a place in them. The next day, that claim was refuted in the media by the people operating the tours. Only three tours of the belltower have taken place, and they were for university students. That is a serious breach of integrity. The Premier would have known that there was not a lot of interest in the belltower and that the tours were not booked out. He gilded the lily.

It was reported on the ABC news today that the Premier said one thing to journalists this morning and another thing during question time in another place. This morning, the Premier indicated that Hon Doug Shave had approached him about an issue that would be raised in the Gunning inquiry; that is, the allegation that the Minister for Fair Trading had asked one of his staff to lean on Blackburne and Dixon Pty Ltd to repay an outstanding debt to his former father-in-law. However, in question time in another place about four hours later, the Premier indicated that a staff member in his office first raised the matter with him. The Premier has a serious problem with the truth.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Can you not reconcile those two statements?

Hon BOB THOMAS: No; they are irreconcilable. This morning he said that Hon Doug Shave had approached him and alerted him to the fact that there would be an allegation that he had asked one of his staff to lean on Blackburne and Dixon. Four hours later in the Parliament he said that it was a staff member from the Premier's office.

Hon Simon O'Brien: So, he had a conversation with a staff member and one with the minister.

Hon Peter Foss: Or with a staff member who had a conversation with the minister.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Members opposite are in denial or they all play fast and loose with the truth.

Hon Ray Halligan: I heard that on the ABC. Did you hear the question asked of the Premier when he made that statement in reply?

Hon BOB THOMAS: If the member can justify this -

Hon Ray Halligan: I was listening to exactly what you were listening to. Did you hear it?

Hon BOB THOMAS: It was absolutely clear.

Hon Ray Halligan: Answer my question! Did you hear the question - yes or no?

Hon BOB THOMAS: The member is having a problem.

Hon Ray Halligan: No, you are having a problem.

Hon BOB THOMAS: This highlights what I am talking about.

Hon Ray Halligan: Yes, how the Opposition stretches the truth.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The member is having a problem.

Hon Peter Foss: No, yours is the difficulty.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The public does not believe anything this Government says.

Hon Ray Halligan: They do not believe you.

Hon BOB THOMAS: If members opposite want to know why they are not being listened to, it is because of these incidents.

Hon Ken Travers: You can see why the Premier is not acting. Doug has many mates.

Hon Peter Foss: No.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Bob Thomas is speaking and I am trying to listen.

Hon BOB THOMAS: This is yet another example of the charade this Government has created. The Premier has repeatedly told us that the budget is in surplus. However, this year's budget is \$613m in deficit.

Hon Peter Foss: It is in surplus.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Everyone, even the Government's friends, are saying that this budget is in deficit.

Hon Peter Foss: That is nonsense. Even on a recurrent accrual basis it is in surplus. The member should try to get a company in the real world to do it on any basis other than a current account and accrual basis.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Whatever way we look at it, the budget is in deficit and it has been for the past two years.

Hon Peter Foss: The only Government that had constant deficits was yours.

Hon BOB THOMAS: It will be in deficit for the next two years and the debt will blow out unless there is a change of Government.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the member speak. Members of the Opposition are speaking over their own member.

Hon BOB THOMAS: The untrue statements -

Hon Peter Foss: Which you are making all the time.

Hon BOB THOMAS: - are not confined to the Premier. I have alerted this House to statements made by the member for Mitchell that are patently untrue. Members may remember that I spoke a couple of years ago about a number of claims he made in the lead-up to the 1996 election. He stated that he got the Government to reject the construction of a port at Kemerton. Candidate Sullivan had nothing to do with the coastal community's campaign against the Kemerton port. Many people from the conservative side of politics were offended that the member tried to take credit for the Government's ditching of plans for such a port. He also stated that he secured a commitment from the Government to build a new school at Carey Park. A couple of years after the election I raised the issue in the estimates committee with Cheryl Vardon, the then Director General of Education. I asked her whether any candidate had sought and received a commitment from the Education Department that it would build a school within the electorate for which they were running. She was offended and said it was not the case. The Leader of the House, representing the Minister for Education, thought I was accusing the Government of some impropriety. However, the member for Mitchell had claimed that he had received a commitment from the Government that it would redevelop the school at Carey Park when clearly it was not the case. The Leader of the House and the Director General of Education said no candidate had received a commitment. That is entirely proper. Government decisions should not be made on the basis of marginal seat politics.

In 1997 candidate Sullivan put out a pamphlet in Eaton saying he had obtained a commitment from the Government to build a new school in Eaton. However, in response to a question from the member for Mitchell in the other place, the Minister for Education indicated that no such commitment had been given. The member for Mitchell has a track record of taking credit for things that he has not done and for misrepresenting the truth. In fact, a number of people in Bunbury call him the banker because he takes credit for things that other people have done. That is an apt name. He surpassed himself in relation to this year's budget. On Friday after the budget had been released in the Parliament he had a pamphlet in the letterboxes of all the houses in Eaton with the headlines "We've got it".

Point of Order

Hon RAY HALLIGAN: Standing Order No 97 states that no member shall use offensive or unbecoming words in reference to any member of either House. I believe the honourable - I use that word loosely - Bob Thomas has been doing that to a member of the other place.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have been reading Standing Order No 97 for some minutes while listening to Hon Bob Thomas' comments. I must have regard for the context in which the comments are made. I must also have regard for other comments that have been made from time to time in this place. Hon Bob Thomas might be coming close to breaching Standing Order No 97, but he has not yet breached it. Whether knowingly or not, he has managed to keep within that standing order.

Debate Resumed

Hon BOB THOMAS: Thank you, Mr President. This is a difficult issue because it goes to the heart of our system and its integrity. I am particularly concerned about the actions of this member. Members opposite also should be concerned because ultimately they are being tarred by the same brush.

The headlines on the pamphlet distributed by the member for Bunbury said "We've got it; there is money in this year's budget to build a new school at Eaton". He used all the arguments I have been using in the community about the need for a new school: The rapid population growth in Eaton, many students going from Eaton to the already overcrowded Australind Senior High School and the fact that a community the size of Eaton should have its own high school. It would also provide an opportunity for facilities such as the library and the sports field to be shared by everyone in the community through the shire council. The member distributed the pamphlet. I went through the budget papers because this is one of the major issues in Bunbury at the moment. I was keen to know whether the lobbying I and other people in the area had done, had been successful. There is nothing in the budget papers. I looked through pages 413 to 418 on Education for reference to new works, planning or whatever. No allocation at all is made for a new school in Eaton. The only reference I could find in the *Budget Statements* was the last dot point at page 391, under the heading "Significant Issues and Trends", in relation to local area education planning -

As part of this, the LAEP process in the Bunbury/Australind area has demonstrated that a new secondary school at Eaton will be required.

That statement is then qualified -

This is likely to be provided for opening in 2003 or 2004, depending on student population growth in the area.

No commitment whatsoever is made in this budget to provide any money, even for planning, for that school. In my view it is highly improper for the member to tell people that money is allocated in this year's budget for the school. More importantly, I wonder how the member arrived at the conclusion that money would be allocated in the budget, and was able to produce a pamphlet in time for it to be in letterboxes by the Friday of that week. It needed to be posted on Thursday, yet the budget was presented in this Parliament at two o'clock on that Thursday. It appears the member had access to information he thought was contained in the budget earlier in the week, which enabled him to produce that pamphlet. That goes to the heart of the secrecy of information in the budget. Why does the Government go through the charade of a media lock-up so that the budget is confidential until it is presented in this House and people cannot profit from that information? Why is the information embargoed until it is presented in this House?

Hon Peter Foss: It is not made public to everyone but there is nothing to stop us making it available to the people we choose.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Does the Government make it public to members of the coalition?

Hon Peter Foss: They are certainly given a briefing on it before members opposite are. It has never been otherwise.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Was the member for Mitchell given a copy of the budget before it was presented?

Hon Peter Foss: He would have been given a briefing.

Hon BOB THOMAS: How could the member have misunderstood that briefing so badly that he produced a pamphlet earlier in the week indicating there was money in the budget to build a high school at Eaton? It is a major problem.

The other issue with regard to the member for Mitchell relates to an interview with Mr Errol Barrett on ABC Radio in Bunbury last Tuesday about the Bunbury Back Beach project. Mr Barrett is part of the Concerned Citizens Group which is opposed to the proposal to have groynes on the Back Beach. Mr Barrett made some amazing revelations during that radio

interview. He said that the member for Mitchell had approached him and other members of the committee and said that he had spoken to the Premier about a surf reef to be built at the Back Beach, and the Premier had said there was money for a surf reef, but the members of the committee could not make that public because the Premier would deny it. What sort of Government do we have when one of its members - a parliamentary secretary - can make that sort of statement?

This lack of integrity is not confined to the member for Mitchell. The member for Bunbury is also engaged in some extraordinary bending of the truth. I refer to a letter that he wrote to the *Bunbury Mail* last Wednesday and to the *Bunbury Herald* today. The member for Bunbury was trying to justify the reason he had refused to receive a petition from the South West Environment Centre about the Bunbury Back Beach. That petition indicated that the general public was happy with the land-based aspect of the Back Beach project but was very opposed to groynes. It asked Ian Osborne to present that petition in the Parliament, and he refused. The group then came to me, and because the petition was addressed to the President, I was more than happy to present the petition.

Hon Simon O'Brien: How could he present a petition that was addressed to the President?

Hon BOB THOMAS: He did not know that it was addressed to the President. He simply stated -

Hon Simon O'Brien: Are you sure?

Hon BOB THOMAS: Yes. He refused to do it, without looking at the petition. The member should listen, because I will read the member for Bunbury's letter.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Did you have anything to do with the authorship of that petition, just as a matter of interest?

Hon BOB THOMAS: Yes I did, actually.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Oh!

Hon BOB THOMAS: I do not want to boast, but I can tell members that it was -

Hon Peter Foss: Where is your integrity in holding back things from the House?

Hon Kim Chance: What is wrong with a member's assisting with a petition?

Hon BOB THOMAS: I was assisting a community group. It was one of the finest petitions -

Hon Peter Foss: But you did not tell the House.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I was about to. It is one of the finest petitions that this House has ever seen.

Hon Peter Foss: If you were involved in helping them, why did they take it to him? If you were such a stout fellow in helping them to prepare it, why did they take it to him?

Hon BOB THOMAS: Because they wanted their local MLA to present the petition, so they went to see him.

Hon Peter Foss: You did not suggest it, did you? Did you suggest it?

Hon Simon O'Brien: You did up a Legislative Council petition as a service to Mr Ian Osborne?

Hon BOB THOMAS: No. Do not be so silly.

Hon Peter Foss: You are being a bit evasive here.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I am not being evasive at all.

Hon Peter Foss: If they wanted it to go to their MLA, why did you draft a petition to the President? You must have misled your people.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Do not be so silly! The reason I suggested to the committee that we address the petition to the President is that we have a Constitutional Affairs Committee which looks at petitions.

Hon Peter Foss: If you knew they wanted to take it to their local MLA, why did you make it out as an MLC?

Hon BOB THOMAS: I did not know that.

Hon Peter Foss: You were a bit dodgy with these people.

Hon BOB THOMAS: That is not true. The Attorney is trying to put words in my mouth that are not true.

Hon Peter Foss: They are your words. You said they wanted to go to their MLA.

Hon BOB THOMAS: In February or March this year I helped the committee to draft a petition, and I recommended that the petition come to this House - to the President - because we have a Constitutional Affairs Committee which looks at petitions.

Hon Peter Foss: When did you find out they wanted to go to their MLA?

Hon BOB THOMAS: The Attorney General should not be so obtuse.

Hon Peter Foss: You told the House that.

Hon BOB THOMAS: In the process, this committee obtained hundreds of signatures on its petitions.

Hon Peter Foss: You are being evasive again. You have been caught out - dodgy, dodgy.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Unbeknown to me, the committee took the petition to the member for Bunbury, Mr Osborne, because they wanted him to present it in the Parliament, because they are very concerned that he is not listening to them about the need for an examination of alternatives.

Hon Peter Foss: You didn't suggest they do that, did you?

Hon BOB THOMAS: No, I did not suggest that. Why would I suggest that?

Hon Peter Foss: I can think of a reason.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: He is a nasty, cynical Attorney General.

Hon BOB THOMAS: Yes. After that, a number of people in Bunbury criticised him in the media for not being prepared to present the petition and he was criticised in the Parliament. They gave me the petition, and I presented it in this House. The member for Bunbury wrote a letter to the newspaper today and to the *Bunbury Herald* last Wednesday in which he indicated that he was not bound to present petitions. It states -

I expressed a view to the South West Environment Centre that . . . if they could find another parliamentarian willing to present it, that would be more suitable.

If, however, they could not find someone else to do so, then I would.

In the event, because the Labor Party opposes the Back Beach Enhancement project, Hon Bob Thomas was more than willing to take the petition.

That is stretching the truth, because the Labor Party does not oppose the Back Beach enhancement project; we are opposed to groynes being part of the Back Beach enhancement program. We have said that we are quite happy to see all the landscaping and the other land side of the project go ahead, but we want alternatives to groynes to be examined. Mr Osborne knew that he was not correct when he wrote this letter to the newspaper saying that the Labor Party opposed the Back Beach enhancement project.

Hon Peter Foss: You do oppose it.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I have been reported as saying that in the newspaper in Bunbury, yet the member knows that the ALP is not opposed to the project. We support the project but we want more work done on the groynes. I have received advice from a number of eminent experts on this who have indicated that groynes do not work. One need only go to Emu Point in Albany or to Busselton and look at the effect of groynes in those areas. I have made that quite clear. Other members of the Labor Party have indicated that we are not opposed to the project; we are just opposed to groynes.

Hon Peter Foss: And the project consists of groynes.

Hon BOB THOMAS: That is only a small part of it. It is only about 30 per cent of the cost.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Political life in Bunbury must be pretty exciting. This is rivetting stuff.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon BOB THOMAS: In the couple of minutes I have left, I will address an issue relating to the goods and services tax. I remind the House that the coalition was an enthusiastic supporter of the GST.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: Particularly Hon Peter Foss.

Hon BOB THOMAS: That is right. As a result of the GST being implemented, from 1 July some country hospitals will be discriminated against because a GST will be imposed on some of their services. I refer to those hospitals which do not have a resident doctor. If somebody goes to the accident and emergency section of a hospital when a local general practitioner is rostered on to attend that section, the hospital is required to consider the service that the GP delivers as a service to the hospital, and it must pay the 10 per cent GST to the doctor. The doctor will then remit that to the Australian Taxation Office and the tax office will send it back to the hospital so that there will be a zero reading. This is a script of which the scriptwriters of *Yes Minister* would have been proud, as we have the most secure route of money coming out of the hospital to the doctor, across to the tax office and then back to the hospital. This will cause enormous cashflow problems to hospitals initially and it will also cost more to administer the system. People who live in the country will see our hospitals lose more of the value of their dollars that they receive from the Government to run the hospitals. This will not occur in the city and will be a major discrimination against country people.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No. 2) 2000

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [11.00 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to grant supply and appropriate sums from the consolidated fund required for capital services for the 2000-01 financial year as detailed in the consolidated fund agency information in support of the estimates.

Capital expenditure and financial transactions are estimated to total \$700 442 000 of which \$131 125 000 is permanently appropriated under special Acts, leaving an amount of \$569 317 000 which is to be appropriated to the services and purposes identified in the schedule to this Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.

House adjourned at 11.02 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, AUSTRALIAN PROPERTY CONSULTANTS AND ROSS HUGHES AND COMPANY

990. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

(1) Have any Government departments or agencies awarded any contracts to -

- (a) Australian Property Consultants; and
- (b) Ross Hughes and Company,

since January 1, 1997 and December 31 1998?

(2) If yes, can the Premier state in each case -

- (a) the project the contract was awarded for;
- (b) the name of the contractor;
- (c) the date the contract was awarded;
- (d) the value of the contract;
- (e) whether the contract went to tender; and
- (f) if the contract did not go to tender, why not?

The answer was tabled. [See paper No 1070.]

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEGISLATION, STATUS

1061. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

(1) Has the Minister for Employment and Training had a legal opinion as to the status of the VET legislation given that Part 7, the principal operating mandate of the Act, has not been proclaimed?

(2) Can the Minister outline the legal advice received by his office or Department of Training and Employment regarding the State Training Board's capacity to delegate or recommend funding?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1) No legal opinion has been obtained as to the status of the VET legislation given that part 7 has not been proclaimed. The VET Act (except for part 7) is currently fully operative. Part 7 is not the principal operating mandate of the Act. This is reflected in the structure of the Act, which makes separate provision for transitional arrangements relating to part 7 so that part 7 can commence at a different time from other parts of the Act. Pending the proclamation of part 7, apprenticeships and traineeships are governed by the Industrial Training Act 1975 and Regulations made pursuant to that Act.

(2) It is not normal to release legal advice given to ministers.

The VET Act provides the State Training Board with two executive functions -

- (a) To prepare a state training profile for the approval of the minister.
- (b) To recognise various industry training advisory bodies as bodies from which the board takes advice in relation to the preparation of the state training profile.

The board's other functions are advisory to the minister. A delegation power is not one of the board's powers. The state training profile is the plan for the provision of vocational education and training and to that extent the board's advice, once approved by the minister, may affect funding decisions. The board does not have a budget allocation and its resources are provided by the department.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, STAFF, VEHICLES, MOBILE PHONES, PAGERS AND CREDIT CARDS

1080. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport:

With respect to the Minister for Transport's office -

(1) Will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December 1999 the following details -

- (a) name;
- (b) level; and
- (c) type of employment contract?

(2) How many vehicles are attached to the office, what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated and under what scheme are they allocated to the staff member?

- (3) How many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated?
- (4) How many pagers are available and to which staff are they allocated?
- (5) How many government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Minister's office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| (1) | (a)-(c) | Steve Imms | A/Level 8 | Public Servant |
| | | Graeme Harman | A/Level 9 | Public Servant |
| | | Alan O'Brien | A/Level 8 | Public Servant |
| | | Stephanie Calder | A/Level 7 | Public Servant |
| | | Doug Cunningham | Level 7 | Term of Government |
| | | Sonia Nicolaou | A/Level 5 | Public Servant |
| | | Gemma Brown | A/Level 4 | Term of Government |
| | | Helen Day | Level 3 | Term of Government |
| | | Sarah Simons | A/Level 3 | Public Servant |
| | | Christine Rimmer | Level 2 | Public Servant |
| | | Kay Bourke | A/Level 2 | Public Servant |

- (2) Steve Imms
Graeme Harman
Alan O'Brien
Stephanie Calder
Doug Cunningham

All payments are made in accordance with the Government Vehicle Scheme.

- (3) Steve Imms
Graeme Harman
Alan O'Brien
Stephanie Calder
Doug Cunningham

A spare mobile phone is available when required.

- (4) Doug Cunningham, Media Secretary.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|
| (5) | Steve Imms | Government Corporate Amex and ANZ Visa Credit Cards |
| | Graeme Harman | Government Corporate ANZ Visa Credit Card |
| | Sonia Nicolaou | Government Corporate ANZ Visa Credit Card |

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, STAFF, VEHICLES, MOBILE PHONES, PAGERS AND CREDIT CARDS

1083. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General:

With respect to the Attorney General's office -

- (1) Will the Attorney General indicate for each staff person working in the Attorney General's office as at 1 December 1999 the following details -
 - (a) name;
 - (b) level; and
 - (c) type of employment contract?
- (2) How many vehicles are attached to the office, what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated and under what scheme are they allocated to the staff member?
- (3) How many mobile phones are available at the Attorney General's office and to which staff are they allocated?
- (4) How many pagers are available and to which staff are they allocated?
- (5) How many government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Attorney General's office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Please refer to answer to question on notice 1084

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, STAFF, VEHICLES, MOBILE PHONES, PAGERS AND CREDIT CARDS

1084. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Justice:

With respect to the Minister for Justice's office -

- (1) Will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December 1999 the following details -
 - (a) name;
 - (b) level; and
 - (c) type of employment contract?

- (2) How many vehicles are attached to the office, what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated and under what scheme are they allocated to the staff member?
- (3) How many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated?
- (4) How many pagers are available and to which staff are they allocated?
- (5) How many government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Minister's office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|---|
| (1) | (a)
Karry Smith
Jim Thomson
Chris Morris
Nick Wood
Krisha Rowcroft
Bridget Nichols
Natalie Triat
Anoutchka Payet
Dobrina Mutavdzic
Susan Braine
Nancy Davies
Jacqueline Carlton
Rachel Byrne | (b)
Level 8
Class 3
Level 6
Level 6
A/Level 5
Level 3
Level 3
A/Level 3
A/Level 3
A/Level 3
Level 2
Level 2
Level 1 | (c)
Monthly
Permanent Public Servant
Term of Government Contract
Term of Government Contract
Permanent Public Servant
Monthly
Permanent Public Servant
Permanent Public Servant
Permanent Public Servant
Permanent Public Servant
Term of Minister
3 monthly contract
3 monthly contract |
|-----|---|--|---|
- (2) Four
Karry Smith GVS
Chris Morris GVS
Nick Wood Not for private use
Krisha Rowcroft Not for private use
 - (3) Four
Karry Smith, Chris Morris and General Office (not allocated to specific officer, but for use by staff when conducting business away from Ministerial office)
 - (4) One
Chris Morris
 - (5) Karry Smith (2), Jim Thomson (2), and Krisha Rowcroft (1)

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, STAFF, VEHICLES, MOBILE PHONES, PAGERS AND CREDIT CARDS

1085. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

With respect to the Minister for the Arts' office -

- (1) Will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 December 1999 the following details -
 - (a) name;
 - (b) level; and
 - (c) type of employment contract?
- (2) How many vehicles are attached to the office, what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated and under what scheme are they allocated to the staff member?
- (3) How many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated?
- (4) How many pagers are available and to which staff are they allocated?
- (5) How many government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Minister's office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Please refer to answer to question on notice 1084

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, VEHICLE ALLOCATIONS

1127. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General:

For each of the officers working in the Attorney General offices who have been allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle;
- (b) is the vehicle private plated; and
- (c) what payment is the officer making for the use of the vehicle?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (a) There are 4 vehicles allocated as at 9 December 1999.

(b)-(c)

Name	Vehicle	GVS Payment	Plate
Karry Smith	Holden Acclaim	\$80.00	Private plated
Chris Morris	Holden Commodore		
	Executive	\$80.00	Private plated
Nick Wood	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated
Krishna Rowcroft	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, VEHICLE ALLOCATIONS

1128. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Justice:

For each of the officers working in the Minister for Justice offices who have been allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle;
- (b) is the vehicle private plated; and
- (c) what payment is the officer making for the use of the vehicle?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (a) There are 4 vehicles allocated as at 9 December 1999.

(b)-(c)

Name	Vehicle	GVS Payment	Plate
Karry Smith	Holden Acclaim	\$80.00	Private plated
Chris Morris	Holden Commodore		
	Executive	\$80.00	Private plated
Nick Wood	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated
Krishna Rowcroft	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, VEHICLE ALLOCATIONS

1129. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

For each of the officers working in the Minister for the Arts offices who have been allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle;
- (b) is the vehicle private plated; and
- (c) what payment is the officer making for the use of the vehicle?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (a) There are 4 vehicles allocated as at 9 December 1999.

(b)-(c)

Name	Vehicle	GVS Payment	Plate
Karry Smith	Holden Acclaim	\$80.00	Private plated
Chris Morris	Holden Commodore		
	Executive	\$80.00	Private plated
Nick Wood	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated
Krishna Rowcroft	Toyota Corolla	Nil, not for private use	Private plated

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, VEHICLE ALLOCATIONS

1133. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Heritage:

For each of the officers working in the Minister for Heritage offices who have been allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle;
- (b) is the vehicle private plated; and
- (c) what payment is the officer making for the use of the vehicle?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

The following response was correct as at 24 February 2000:

Please refer to the answer given in response to question on notice 1132 of 9 December 1999.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, VEHICLE ALLOCATIONS

1143. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

For each of the officers working in the Minister for Employment and Training offices who have been allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle;
- (b) is the vehicle private plated; and
- (c) what payment is the officer making for the use of the vehicle?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The following response was correct as at 24 February 2000:

Please refer to the answer given in response to question on notice 1132 of 9 December 1999.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1422. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General:

For each department or agency under the Attorney General's direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry of Justice:

The Ministry of Justice has provided the following information:

- (1) 5102 (includes all full time, part time and fractional staff)

Classification Level	Number of Staff
Level 1	721
Level 2	603
Level 2/3	52
Level 2/4	136
Level 3	231
Level 4	156
Level 5	307
Level 6	132
Level 7	85
Level 8	36
Level 9	17
Class 1	7
Class 3	3
Class 4	2
Special Class 6	1
Legal Profession	92
Prison Officers	1495
Doctors and Nursing	122
Teaching Staff	89
Fractional Staff	704
Others	111
(Mainly Miscellaneous Workers Union)	

- (2) 3215

- (3) 1887

- (4) Due to recent changes in our information systems, at this stage, this information cannot be reported accurately.

- (5) 381

- (6) 308

Commissioner for Equal Opportunity:

The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has provided the following reply:

- (1) There are currently twenty-eight (28) staff employed by the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity. The number of staff employed in each classification level is as follows -

Classification Level	Number of Staff
Special 2	1
Level 8/9	1
Level 7	3
Level 6/7	1
Level 5	13
Level 4	1
Level 3	3
Level 2	3
Level 1	2
Total	28

- (2) There are twenty-six (26) permanent staff employed. Of these one officer is on leave without pay for a 12 month period.

- (3) There are currently two (2) staff who are on secondment, from other public sector agencies, who are not permanent employees of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity.

- (4) Two (2)

- (5) Three (3)

- (6) Three (3)

Legal Aid Western Australia:

(1)	201	
	Number of Staff	Classification Level
	42	Level 1
	39	Level 2
	32	Level 3
	11	Level 4
	23	Level 5
	7	Level 6
	22	Level 7
	4	Level 8
	14	Level 9
	Nil	Class 1
	5	Class 2
	Nil	Class 3
	1	Class 4
	1	Class 5

- (2) 124
 (3) 77
 (4) 3
 (5) 3
 (6) 3

Director of Public Prosecutions:

(1)	Total staff employed is 116. The levels are as follows:	
	Number of Staff	Classification Level
	1	Tea Attendant
	24	Level 1
	19	Level 2
	5	Level 3
	3	Level 4
	13	Level 4/5
	2	Level 5
	13	Level 6/7
	13	Level 7/8
	1	Level 8
	9	Class 1
	9	Class 3
	2	Class 4
	2	Salaries and Allowances Tribunal

- (2) 92
 (3) 24
 (4) 24
 (5) 10
 (6) 10

Solicitor General's Chambers:

(1)	Number of Staff	Classification Level
	1	Level 4
(2)	1	
(3)-(6)	None	

Law Reform Commission of Western Australia:

- (1) In total there are eight (8) staff. One (1) full time officer employed at level 6. The remaining staff are casual and do not have a level.
 (2) One (1)
 (3) Seven (7)
 (4)-(6) None

Office of the Information Commissioner

These questions request details of agencies under the direction and control of the Attorney General, which does not include this office as the Information Commissioner reports directly to Parliament. Therefore, we do not come within the scope of these questions for the coordinated reply. However, if a member requires this information, we can be contacted direct.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1423. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Justice:

For each department or agency under the Minister's direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
 (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
 (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?

- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I refer the Member to my answer given to Question on Notice 1422.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1427. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Energy's direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Office of Energy

- (1) Level 1 3
- Level 2 14
- Level 3 7
- Level 4 11
- Level 5 17
- Level 6 11
- Level 7 8
- Level 8 4
- Level 9 2
- Class 1 3
- Group 2 Max 1
- Total 81

- (2) 74
- (3) 7
- (4) 12
- (5) 6
- (6) 3

AlintaGas

- (1)-(6) At 1 March 2000 AlintaGas employed 374 staff. AlintaGas, as a corporatised body under the provisions of the Gas Corporation Act, operates commercially in a highly competitive energy industry. AlintaGas considers the provision of any further details to be commercially sensitive information. Further, its employees are not part of the public service and the employment 'levels' do not match those of the public service, meaning any consolidation of numbers or comparisons is not possible.

Western Power

- (1)-(6) At present Western Power employees 2695 staff (including part-time and casual employees). Western Power, as a corporatised body, operates commercially in a highly competitive energy industry. Western Power considers the provision of any further details to be commercially sensitive information. Further, its employees are not part of the public service and the employment 'levels' do not match those of the public service, meaning any consolidation of numbers or comparisons is not possible.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1428. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fair Trading:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Fair Trading's direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

In respect of the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board, Settlement Agents Supervisory Board, Finance Brokers Supervisory Board, Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board, Land Valuers' Licensing Board, the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee, the Retail Shops Advisory Committee, the Consumer Products Safety Committee and the Home Buyers' Assistance Advisory Committee, the following actual staff numbers (ie actual employees) are provided:

- (1) Total number of staff employed: 261

Level 1	61
Level 2	63
Level 3	27
Level 4	35
Level 5	34
Level 6	15
Level 6/7	11
Level 7	9
Level 8	2
Level 9	3
Special 2	1
- (2) Permanent Full Time - 176, Permanent Part Time - 30.
- (3) Non-permanent (Contract) Employees - 55.
- (4) Substantive vacancies - 45 (of which 38 vacancies are in the process of being filled).
- (5) Substantive positions being acted in - 53.
- (6) Substantive positions acted for more than 3 months - 35.

In respect of the Builders' Registration Board:

- (1) Total staff employed is twenty-two (22)

Level 9 =	1
Level 7 =	1
Level 6 =	1
Level 5 =	5
Level 4 =	3
Level 3 =	2
Level 2 =	3
Level 1 =	6
- (2) Twenty one (21) - one officer is on maternity leave.
- (3) Non-permanent (Contract) Employees - 1.
- (4) Substantive vacancies - 4.
- (5) Substantive positions being acted in - 4.
- (6) Substantive positions acted for more than 3 months - 4

In respect of the Building Disputes Committee:

No staff are directly employed by the Building Disputes Committee, all staff being employees of the Builders' Registration Board.

In respect of the Painters' Registration Board:

- (1) Total staff employed is three (3)

Level 5 =	1
Level 4 =	2
- (2) Permanent - 1.
- (3) Non-permanent (Contract) Employees - 2.
- (4) Substantive vacancies - Nil.
- (5) Substantive positions being acted in - Nil.
- (6) Substantive positions acted for more than 3 months - Nil.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1438. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Family and Children's Services' direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?

- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

		FCS*	FCPO*	WPO*	OSI*	TOTAL
(1)	Level 1	211	0	5	3	219
	Level 2	185	2	2	5	194
	Level 3 (inc. 2/3) 87	0	2	3	92	
	Level 4 (inc. 2/4) 337	0	5	3	345	
	Level 5	282	1	3	6	292
	Level 6 (inc.5/6)	123	1	3	2	129
	Level 7 (inc.6/7)	45	1	1	2	49
	Level 8	15	1	3	0	19
	Level 9	5	0	0	1	6
	Class 1	4	1	1	1	7
	Class 2	1	0	0	0	1
	Special	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	1296	7	25	26	1354
(2)		1085	7	25	23	1140
(3)		211	0	0	3	214
(4)		286	1	9	11	307
(5)		161	2	7	5	175
(6)		109	0	1	2	112

FCS - Family and Children's Services
 FCPO - Family and Children's Policy Office
 WPO - Women's Policy Development Office
 OSI - Office of Seniors Interests

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1443. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Seniors:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Seniors' direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Please refer to question on notice 1438.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1446. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Women's Interests:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Women's Interests' direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Please refer to question on notice 1438

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1453. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Forest Products:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Forest Products' direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(6) The Forest Products Commission has yet to be established.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, STAFF NUMBERS

1460. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Education's direction as at March 1 2000 -

- (1) How many staff are employed in total and at each level?
- (2) How many permanent staff are employed?
- (3) How many non-permanent staff are employed?
- (4) How many substantive positions are vacant?
- (5) How many substantive positions are filled in an acting capacity?
- (6) How many substantive positions have been filled in an acting capacity for longer than three months?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) As at 1 March 2000 there was a total of 31 628 staff employed by the Education Department of Western Australia.

Employees includes all persons who:

- were in temporary (fixed term) or permanent jobs;
- were paid as a casual employee for work done on the 1 March 2000;
- were on the Department's unattached list; and
- were on leave (paid or unpaid).

The number of staff employed by levels (where applicable) is shown below.

Non Teaching Staff

Aboriginal Education Worker	379
Admin Clerk (Senior College)	2
Assist Gardener/Handyperson L2	75
Bus Driver	3
Bus Warden	60
Canteen Attendant	28
Canteen Supervisor	11
Casual Appointment	4
Child Care Giver	25
Cleaner	824
Cook	8
Cook Employed Alone(Full Time)	1
Gardener	798
Government Officer Level 1	101
Government Officer Level 2	31
Government Officer Level 3	6
Government Officer Level 4	2
Govt Officer L2/4	1
Home Economics Assist L3	230
Kitchen Staff Level 1	54
Kitchen Staff Level 2	6
Kitchen Staff Level 3	6

Kitchen Staff Level 4	6
Kitchen hand	4
Maintenance Officer	1
Ministerial Officer L1	1940
Ministerial Officer L2	6
Ministerial Officer L3	694
Ministerial Officer L4	1
Occupational Health Nurse	1
Pool Attendant	1
PSP/PCAP	7
Public Service Class 1	1
Public Service Class 2	3
Public Service Class 3	1
Public Service Class 4	1
Public Service L 2/4	14
Public Service Level 1	201
Public Service Level 2	276
Public Service Level 2/3	13
Public Service Level 3	113
Public Service Level 4	165
Public Service Level 5	235
Public Service Level 6	123
Public Service Level 7	126
Public Service Level 8	34
Public Service Level 9	40
Director General	1
Residential Supervisor Ag College	27
Snr Qualified Childcare Giver	2
Social Trainer	26
Stage Manager	1
Swim Superv 1-5 Staff (Interm)	21
Swim Superv 6+ Staff (Interm)	28
Swimming Instructor (Interm)	415
Tea Attendant (Part Time)	2
Teacher Aide	3732
Trainee (Aust Vocn Cert Prog)	2

Teaching Staff

Education Officer Level 1	1
Education Officer Level 2	39
Executive Principal School of Isolated and Distance Education	1
Lecturer (Senior College)	69
Principal Sch Psychologist L4	1
School Administrator Level 3	1898
School Administrator Level 4	474
School Administrator Level 5	294
School Administrator Level 6	144
School Psychologist Level 1	54
School Psychologist Level 2	164
Senior Assistant Level 3	2
Senior Education Officer L3	5
Senior School Psychologist L3	4
Relief Teacher	551
Teacher (Untrained)	50
Teacher Specially Organised Classes	44
Teacher - Swimming Ed Support	14
Teacher Level 1	4477
Teacher Level 1 - Peripatetic	15
Teacher Level 2	12213
Teacher Level 3	195

- (2) As at 1 March 2000 there were 20 868 permanent staff employed.
- (3) As at 1 March 2000 there were 10 760 temporary staff employed which included 1 425 casual staff.
- (4) As at 1 March 2000 there were 107 positions advertised for filling.
- (5) As at 1 March 2000 there were 691 positions filled in an acting capacity
- (6) As at 1 March 2000, 141 positions had been filled in an acting capacity for longer than 3 months.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES

(1) Total	26
Public Service Level 1	4
Public Service Level 2	2
Public Service Level 3	3
Public Service Level 4	3
Public Service Level 5	1
Public Service Level 6	3
Public Service Level 7	5
Public Service Level 8	2
Public Service Level 9	1

Public Service Class 1	1
Public Service Group 2	1

- (2) 20
 (3) 6
 (4)-(6) Nil.

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY

(1) Total	120
Public Service Level 2	10
Public Service Level 4	1
Public Service Level 8	1
The following staff are not classified in 'Levels':	
Ancillary	51
Supervisors	40
Senior Supervisors	9
College Managers	8

- (2) 107
 (3) 13
 (4) 1
 (5) 1
 (6) 1

CURRICULUM COUNCIL

(1) Total	77
Public Service Level 1	8
Public Service Level 2	13
Public Service Level 3	12
Public Service Level 4	3
Public Service Level 5	7
Public Service Level 6	26
Public Service Level 7	6
Public Service Level 9	2

- (2) 48
 (3) 29
 (4) 3
 (5) 3
 (6) Nil.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1461. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Mines:

For each department or agency under the Minister's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
 (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
 (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Department of Minerals and Energy

- (1) The Department of Minerals and Energy leases 146 vehicles through Matrix as at 1 March 2000.
 (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Coal Industry Superannuation Board

- (1) Nil
 (2) Coal Industry Superannuation Board (CISB) does not participate.
 (3) As a superannuation fund, CISB is prohibited from leasing under Commonwealth legislation.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1462. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

For each department or agency under the Minister's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
 (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
 (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Vehicles leased through Matrix as at March 1, 2000 are -

Ministry of Sport and Recreation	27
Recreation Camps and Reserves Board	6
Western Australian Institute of Sport	3
Western Australian Sports Centre Trust	7

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1463. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

For each department or agency under the Minister's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor

- (1) Ten.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Burswood Park Board

- (1) Four
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Totalisator Agency Board

- (1) Twenty-two.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

WA Greyhound Racing Authority

- (1) Nil.
- (2) WA Greyhound Racing Authority.
- (3) On the basis of minimal vehicles held. WA Greyhound Racing Authority is also listed on Schedule 1 of the Public Sector Management Authority which provides exemption from the State Supply Commission Act 1991 and related purchasing policies.

Lotteries Commission Western Australia

- (1) The Lotteries Commission leases 19 vehicles through Matrix as at 1 March 2000
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1464. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Tourism:

For each department or agency under the Minister's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Western Australian Tourism Commission

- (1) 36
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Rottneest Island Authority

- (1) 9
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1465. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport:

For each department or agency under the Minister's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Port of Broome

- (1) Nil.

- (2) Broome Port Authority.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

Eastern Goldfields Transport Board

- (1) None.
- (2) Eastern Goldfields Transport Board does not participate.
- (3) Only two motor vehicles involved - outright purchased.

Esperance Port Authority

- (1) None.
- (2) Esperance Port Authority.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

Fremantle Port Authority

- (1) 45.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Geraldton Port Authority

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Geraldton Port Authority.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

MetroBus

- (1) MetroBus did not lease any vehicles through Matrix as at 1 March 2000.
- (2) MetroBus does not participate in the Matrix Scheme.
- (3) MetroBus did not participate in the Matrix scheme, as the vehicles required a minimum lease period. The lease period could not be guaranteed due to the uncertainty of environment created by the contracting out of MetroBus services and the possibility of closure.

Main Roads Western Australia

- (1) 417.
- (2) Main Roads participates in the Matrix lease scheme.
- (3) Not applicable

Port Hedland Port Authority

- (1) Nil
- (2) Port Hedland Port Authority does not participate.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

Department of Transport

- (1) 151.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Westrail

- (1) 234.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Albany Port Authority

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Albany Port Authority does not participate.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

Bunbury Port Authority

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Bunbury Port Authority.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

Dampier Port Authority

- (1) None by the Dampier Port Authority.
- (2) The Dampier Port Authority does not participate.
- (3) Partial lease and partial direct ownership of Fleet, eg: Ports operating commercially and are putting in place their own arrangements on leasing or direct ownership of vehicles.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1469. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Commerce and Trade's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) 28.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) 7.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) 5.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (1) 4.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) 4.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) 5.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) Three, excluding a vehicle leased via the Commission that is used and paid for by Mid West Tourism Promotions.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (1) 4.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) 5.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (1) As at 1 March 2000 the South West Development Commission leased 12 vehicles through Matrix. Two of these vehicles were awaiting disposal. The Commission's substantive fleet is set at 10 vehicles.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) 7.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1470. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Employment and Training's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Western Australian Department of Training and Employment
(Includes WestOne Services and TAFE International) | 51 |
| | Central Metropolitan College of TAFE | 19 |
| | West Coast College of TAFE | 21 |
| | South East Metropolitan College of TAFE | Nil |
| | South Metropolitan College of TAFE | Nil |
| | Midland College of TAFE | Nil |
| | South West Regional College of TAFE | Nil |
| | Great Southern Regional College of TAFE | Nil |
| | Central West Regional College of TAFE | 4 |
| | Eastern Pilbara College of TAFE | 17 |
| | Karratha College of TAFE | 9 |
| | C Y O'Connor College of TAFE | 12 |
| | Kimberley College | 15 |
- (2) South East Metropolitan College of TAFE
South Metropolitan College of TAFE
Midland College of TAFE
South West Regional College of TAFE
Great Southern Regional College of TAFE
South East Metropolitan College of TAFE - South East Metropolitan College of TAFE has determined to maintain a fully owned fleet of vehicles.
- (3) South Metropolitan College of TAFE – When South Metropolitan College of TAFE became autonomous it assumed ownership of a small existing fleet of vehicles. It determined in its circumstances it is more cost effective to manage its own small fleet.
- Midland College of TAFE - When Midland College of TAFE became autonomous it assumed ownership of a small existing fleet of vehicles. It determined in its circumstances it is more cost effective to manage its own small fleet.
- South West Regional College of TAFE - South West Regional College of TAFE has determined to maintain a fully owned fleet of vehicles.
- Great Southern Regional College of TAFE - Great Southern Regional College of TAFE has determined to maintain a fully owned fleet of vehicles.
- Note: Although the majority of the College's vehicles are leased through the Matrix scheme, Central Metropolitan College of TAFE leases two buses through Lease Plan Australia (successful tender applicant) as at the time of acquirement this type of vehicle was not available on either the Government approved list or the Matrix scheme. As at 1 March 2000, the College also owned ten vehicles which will be replaced, once they reach the two-year/40,000 km limit, with vehicles leased through the Matrix scheme.
- Eastern Pilbara College of TAFE also leases a bus and a truck from Lease Plan Australia because they were previously unavailable under the Matrix scheme.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1473. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Lands' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

LandCorp

(1) 22

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

Department of Land Administration

(1) 43

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1474. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1) Five (5) motor vehicles.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1475. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Regional Development:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Regional Development's control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

See the response to Question 1469.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1477. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Small Business:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Small Business' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

See the response to Question 1469.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1478. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Youth:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Youth's control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1) Seven.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1479. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

(1) 50.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1480. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

(1) 4

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1481. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Disability Services:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Disability Services' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

(1) 340 vehicles are leased by the Disability Services Commission.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1482. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Family and Children's Services' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

(1)	Family and Children's Services	353
	Office of Seniors Interests	5
	Women's Policy Office	6

(2) None

(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1483. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Fisheries' control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

(1) 79 vehicles were on lease through MATRIX as at 1 March 2000.

(2) Fisheries WA has participated in the MATRIX lease scheme since the contract was commissioned.

(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1484. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Housing:

For each department or agency under the Minister Housing's control -

(1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?

(2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?

(3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Ministry of Housing.
- (3) Prior to the commencement of the State fleet funding facility in July 1996, Homeswest was already engaged in a leasing arrangement for its passenger vehicles under a separate contract. With the approval of the State Supply Commission and Treasury, Homeswest has continued with its own leasing arrangement following a tender process for the leasing of its passenger vehicles in 1999.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1485. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Local Government:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Local Government's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- (1) 8
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

METROPOLITAN CEMETERIES BOARD

- (1) Nil
- (2) Metropolitan Cemeteries Board does not participate in the matrix lease scheme
- (3) Vehicles are not leased but purchased

FREMANTLE CEMETERY BOARD

- (1) Nil
- (2) Fremantle Cemetery Board
- (3) Outright purchase

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL

- (1) None
- (2) KABC
- (3) KABC owns its motor vehicles

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1486. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Primary Industry's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Agriculture Western Australia
(1) 589 vehicles.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1487. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Seniors:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Seniors' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Please refer to question on notice 1482.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1488. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Services:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Services' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

State Supply Commission
(1) 4 vehicles.

- (2) The State Supply Commission participates in the Matrix lease scheme.
- (3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1489. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Water Resources:
For each department or agency under the Minister for Water Resources' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Office of Water Regulation:
(1) 7.
(2)-(3) Not applicable.

Water and Rivers Commission:
(1) 120.
(2)-(3) Not applicable.

Water Corporation:
(1) 152.
(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1490. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Women's Interests:
For each department or agency under the Minister for Women's Interests' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Please refer to question on notice 1482.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1491. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:
For each department or agency under the Minister for Works' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do no participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Department of Contract and Management Services
(1) 77.
(2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1493. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:
For each department or agency under the Minister for the Arts' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as as at March 1 2000?

- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry for Culture & the Arts (including ArtsWA)

- (1) 4.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.

Library and Information Service of Western Australia

- (1) 6.
- (2) None.
- (3) LISWA is currently managing 2 light trucks which are still on lease from Esanda Finance. These types of vehicle were not originally available for finance through the Matrix scheme.

Western Australian Museum

- (1) 11.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) 6.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (1) 2.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.

ScreenWest

- (1) 1.
- (2) None.
- (3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1499. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Heritage:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Heritage's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Heritage Council of Western Australia 2
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1500. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Labour Relations' control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

WorkCover WA:

- (1) Nil
- (2)-(3) WorkCover WA is a non-Consolidated Fund Agency and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Commission determined to maintain its own fleet.

Department of the Registrar, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission

- (1) 7
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (1) 24 Vehicles.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (1) 76 vehicles.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Commissioner for Workplace Agreements:

- (1) 8
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES, MATRIX LEASE SCHEME

1501. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

For each department or agency under the Minister for Planning's control -

- (1) How many motor vehicles are leased through Matrix as at March 1 2000?
- (2) Which department or agencies do not participate in the Matrix lease scheme?
- (3) On what basis are departments or agencies not participating in the scheme?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)

Ministry for Planning	43
Office of the Minister for Planning (Appeals)	2
East Perth Redevelopment Authority	3
Subiaco Redevelopment Authority	1
- (2) Midland Redevelopment Authority does not participate but will when two new vehicles are leased in April and May 2000.
- (3) Not applicable.

AA MEDIA SERVICES, BUNBURY

1507. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

In relation to the awarding of a Government public relations consultancy to AA Media Services in Bunbury -

- (1) What services are provided to the Government by the consultant for the payment of \$8 000 per month?
- (2) Over what period will the contract operate?
- (3) Do AA Media Services have contracts with other Government departments?
- (4) If so, which ones?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) The Consultant provides a comprehensive public relations presence for the State Government in the Bunbury and South-West regions as well as a media monitoring service.
- (2) The contract is for one year to September 30, 2000 with three further 12 month extension options.
- (3)-(4) AA Media Services are registered on the Department of Contract and Management Services' panel contract and provide services to departments such as Main Roads WA and the Department of Employment and Training on an as-required basis.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, TENDERS, COSTS AND COMPLETION DATES

1555. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Attorney General:

- (1) In 1998/99 what contracts did Government departments and agencies under the Attorney General's control award to -
 - (a) O'Keefe & Gee;
 - (b) Picton Press;
 - (c) Frank Daniels;
 - (d) Vanguard Press;
 - (e) Advance Press;
 - (f) Muhlins Print; and
 - (g) Lamb Print?
- (2) For each contract, what was -
 - (a) the original tender cost;
 - (b) the actual final cost;
 - (c) the award date; and
 - (d) the completion date?
- (3) For each contract, how many companies tendered for the contract?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry of Justice

- (1) (a)-(d) Nil
(e) (i) Printing of MOJ 1998 Handbook
(ii) Printing of the Annual Report
(iii) Printing of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Report for the Equal Opportunity Commission
(iv) Printing of 'In Session' Magazine
(v) Printing of information booklets for the Equity Unit
(f) (i) Printing of Integrated Planning Calendars
(ii) Printing of Strategic Directions 1999-2004
(g) Nil
- (2) (a) (i) \$14,650
(ii) \$ 9,300
(iii) \$ 6,465
(iv) \$ 5,000
(v) \$ 8,165
(vi) \$ 738
(vii) \$ 4,900
- (b) (i) \$14,650
(ii) \$ 9,300
(iii) \$ 6,465
(iv) \$ 5,000
(v) \$ 8,165
(vi) \$ 738
(vii) \$ 4,900
- (c) (i) 27 November 1998
(ii) 30 November 1998
(iii) 12 January 1999
(iv) 2 February 1999
(v) 22 January 1999
(vi) 30 March 1999
(vii) 3 June 1999
- (d) (i) 4 December 1998
(ii) 11 December 1998
(iii) 18 January 1999
(iv) 31 January 2000
(v) 3 February 1999
(vi) 23 April 1999
(vii) 21 June 1999
- (3) (i) Four
(ii) Four
(iii) Three
(iv) Three
(v) Four
(vi) Three
(vii) Three

Solicitor General

(1)-(3) Nil

Director of Public Prosecutions

- (1) (a)-(f) None
(g) During 1998/99 one printing contract was awarded to Lamb Print for the production of a report. During 1998/99 Lamb Print also supplied the DPP with a small quantity of printed letterheads. That was not done under a formal contract.
- (2) (a) \$1793.00
(b) \$1793.00
(c) 17 July 1998
(d) 30 July 1998
- (3) Two

Office of the Information Commissioner

These questions on notice request details of agencies under the control of the Attorney General, which does not include this office as the Information Commissioner reports directly to Parliament. Therefore, we do not come within the scope of these questions for the coordinated reply.

Legal Aid WA

(1)-(3) Nil

Equal Opportunity Commissioner

(1)-(3) Nil

Crown Solicitor's Office

(1)-(3) Nil

Law Reform Commission

(1) None

(2) Nil

(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, TENDERS, COSTS AND COMPLETION DATES

1556. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Justice:

(1) In 1998/99 what contracts did Government departments and agencies under the Minister's control award to -

- (a) O'Keefe & Gee;
- (b) Picton Press;
- (c) Frank Daniels;
- (d) Vanguard Press;
- (e) Advance Press;
- (f) Muhlings Print; and
- (g) Lamb Print?

(2) For each contract, what was -

- (a) the original tender cost;
- (b) the actual final cost;
- (c) the award date; and
- (d) the completion date?

(3) For each contract, how many companies tendered for the contract?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I refer the member to my answer given to Question on Notice 1555.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, TENDERS, COSTS AND COMPLETION DATES

1560. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

(1) In 1998/99 what contracts did Government departments and agencies under the Minister for Energy's control award to -

- (a) O'Keefe & Gee;
- (b) Picton Press;
- (c) Frank Daniels;
- (d) Vanguard Press;
- (e) Advance Press;
- (f) Muhlings Print; and
- (g) Lamb Print?

(2) For each contract, what was -

- (a) the original tender cost;
- (b) the actual final cost;
- (c) the award date; and
- (d) the completion date?

(3) For each contract, how many companies tendered for the contract?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

AlintaGas

(1) Muhlings Print.

(2)-(3) Occasional orders were raised on Muhlings Print for small print jobs with a total value over the year of \$24,086.90.

Western Power

(1) In 1998/99 Western Power Corporation placed orders with the following organisations:

(a,b,d,f,g)
Nil

(d)-(e)
Frank Daniels and Advance Press

(2) Frank Daniels
Original cost \$8600
Actual cost \$8600
Award date 23/9/98
Completion date 24/3/99

Advance Press	(i)	(ii)
Original cost	\$8395	\$16170
Actual cost	\$7639.45	\$16170
Award date	22/6/99	19/8/98
Completion date	29/6/99	21/8/98

- (3) Tenders were not called as the value of each order was less than Western Power's tender threshold of \$50,000.

Office of Energy

- (1) (a)-(d) None.
 (e) None over \$5,000.
 (f) None.
 (g) None over \$5,000.

- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, TENDERS, COSTS AND COMPLETION DATES

1586. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Forest Products:

- (1) In 1998/99 what contracts did Government departments and agencies under the Minister for Forest Products' control award to -

- (a) O'Keefe & Gee;
 (b) Picton Press;
 (c) Frank Daniels;
 (d) Vanguard Press;
 (e) Advance Press;
 (f) Muhlins Print; and
 (g) Lamb Print?

- (2) For each contract, what was -

- (a) the original tender cost;
 (b) the actual final cost;
 (c) the award date; and
 (d) the completion date?

- (3) For each contract, how many companies tendered for the contract?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(3) The Forest Products Commission has yet to be established.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, TENDERS, COSTS AND COMPLETION DATES

1593. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) In 1998/99 what contracts did Government departments and agencies under the Minister for Education's control award to -

- (a) O'Keefe & Gee;
 (b) Picton Press;
 (c) Frank Daniels;
 (d) Vanguard Press;
 (e) Advance Press;
 (f) Muhlins Print; and
 (g) Lamb Print?

- (2) For each contract, what was -

- (a) the original tender cost;
 (b) the actual final cost;
 (c) the award date; and
 (d) the completion date?

- (3) For each contract, how many companies tendered for the contract?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) (a)-(b) None.

- (c) Frank Daniels - (i) MSE Science Project Summary booklets;
 - (ii) Strategic Overview booklets;
 - (iii) English Report brochures; and
 (iv) Customer Service Charter brochures.

- (d) None.

- (e) Advance Press - (i) Curriculum Assessment and Report Policy and Guidelines booklets;
 - (ii) Teach WA brochures; and
 - (iii) Science Reports.

(f) None.

(g) Lamb Print - (i) Aboriginal Language Books – Solid English;
 - (ii) Swimming and Water Safety manuals;
 - (iii) MSE English Student booklets;
 - (iv) Gifted and Talented booklets – Guide for Parents;
 - (v) Customer Service Charter brochures; and
 - (vi) Two Way English booklet.

(2) Frank Daniels

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
(a)	\$13 010	\$17 945	\$15 780	\$24 980
(b)	\$13 010	\$17 945	\$15 780	\$24 980
(c)	23/07/98	30/10/98	24/12/98	23/04/99
(d)	23/10/98	27/11/98	31/01/99	27/05/99

Advance Press

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
(a)	\$11 900	\$6 440	\$7 295
(b)	\$11 900	\$6 440	\$7 295
(c)	14/12/98	05/05/99	10/06/99
(d)	22/12/98	27/05/99	22/07/99

Lamb Print

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
(a)	\$19 990	\$10 129	\$5 966	\$9 410	\$11 775	\$17 990
(b)	\$19 990	Not yet invoiced	\$5 966	\$9 410	Not yet invoiced	\$17 990
(c)	13/08/98	21/09/98	05/02/99	30/03/99	06/04/99	04/05/99
(d)	30/03/99	21/09/98	16/02/99	13/04/99	13/04/99	01/09/99

(3) Frank Daniels

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
4	3	3	3

Advance Print

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
3	3	3

Lamb Print

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
4	3	3	4	3	4

Department of Education Services

(1) (a)-(d) None.
 (e) Advance Press – printing of 1997/98 Annual Report .
 (f)-(g) None.

(2) (a) \$6 420
 (b) \$6 420
 (c) 08/10/1998
 (d) 15/12/1998

(3) Three.

Curriculum Council

(1) (a)-(b) None.

(c) Frank Daniels - (i) TEE Standard answer booklets;
 - (ii) Getting Started Books – English;
 - (iii) Getting Started Books – Science;
 - (iv) Curriculum Council Update (September issue); and
 - (v) Mathematics & Statistics Books.

(d)-(g) None.

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
(a)	\$9 390	\$13 430	\$13 430	\$6 940	\$7 390
(b)	\$9 765	\$17 425	\$14 075	\$6 940	\$7 390
(c)	5/6/98	24/3/99	24/3/99	14/9/98	15/12/98
(d)	31/8/98	30/4/99	30/4/99	25/9/98	31/12/98

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
3	4	4	3	1

AERIAL SPRAYING, REGULATIONS

1679. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

(1) Why is Dimethoate registered for use in aerial spraying in Western Australia when it is not permitted in Victoria or South Australia?

- (2) Is it correct that the protocols being developed by Agriculture WA for aerial spraying are only guidelines and implemented on a self regulating basis?
- (3) Is the Minister for Primary Industry aware of cases within the Plantagenet Shire where humans and livestock (including marron, cattle, sheep, bees and dock moth) have been adversely affected by the widespread use of pesticides in aerial spraying?
- (4) Is it correct that the frequency and concentration of the current pesticides is being increased because the current regime is becoming ineffective in bluegum plantations?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) The Executive Director of Public Health has banned the use of Dimethoate for aerial spraying on eucalyptus plantations in Western Australia while labelling issues are being reviewed. Dimethoate is not registered for use on trees in Victoria and South Australia because the manufacturers did not seek registration for these States.
- (2) A protocol developed by Agriculture Western Australia is a generic one for use in any situation where chemical spraying occurs. Its use is not restricted to the aerial application of chemicals.
- (3) I am aware of the concerns expressed by some people and the possible impact of aerial spraying. Any information should be referred to the appropriate agency for consideration.
- (4) Officers of Agriculture Western Australia are not aware of any evidence that either rate or frequency of pesticide application in bluegum plantations has increased. There is no known evidence that insecticide resistance is leading to ineffective results.

PUBLIC SERVANTS, INVESTIGATIONS

1713. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) How many public servants are currently under investigation by the WA Police Service's Public Sector Investigations Unit?
- (2) How many public servants are currently under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) There are currently fifty one (51) public officers from various government agencies under investigation by the Public Sector Investigations Unit.
- (2) Six (6) public servants are currently being investigated under Part IV of the *Anti-Corruption Commission Act 1988*. Ten (10) public servants are currently the subject of inquiry under Part III of the *Anti-Corruption Commission Act 1988*.

"REGIONAL CABINET NEWS, SOUTH WEST", DISTRIBUTION AND COST

1718. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

In relation to the glossy pamphlet "Regional Cabinet News - South West" which was distributed to Bunbury houses in February/March this year -

- (1) How many of these pamphlets were distributed?
- (2) Who produced and printed the document?
- (3) What was the total cost of -
 - (a) production;
 - (b) printing; and
 - (c) distribution?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) There wasn't a glossy pamphlet as described by the Member. There were approximately 1000 copies of a two-colour newsletter entitled "Regional Cabinet News - South West" distributed.
- (2) The newsletter was produced in house.
 - (a)-(b) Total cost of production, including printing, was \$1226.00.
 - (c) Distribution cost was approximately \$410.00.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE

1722. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

For each of the Government agencies for which the Treasurer has Ministerial responsibility -

- (1) What was the total recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?

- (2) What was the total capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (3) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (4) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (5) What was the total recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (6) What was the total capital expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (7) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (8) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Please refer to response provided to question on notice 1725 of 6/4/2000.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE

1723. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Minister for Justice:

For each of the Government agencies for which the Minister has Ministerial responsibility -

- (1) What was the total recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (2) What was the total capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (3) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (4) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (5) What was the total recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (6) What was the total capital expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (7) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (8) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry of Justice

- (1) \$7.259 million
- (2) \$355,730
- (3) \$6.204 million
- (4) \$408,000
- (5) \$9.06 million
- (6) \$12.455 million
- (7) \$10,071 million
- (8) \$9.869 million

Solicitor General

The Solicitor General's Chambers are included in the figures supplied by the Ministry of Justice, both for telecommunications and information technology.

Director of Public Prosecutions

- (1) \$87,452.67
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$80,000.00
- (4) \$4,231.00
- (5) \$150,461.36
- (6) \$136,634.00
- (7) \$150,000.00
- (8) \$160,000.00

Information Commissioner

- (1) \$12,557
- (2) \$20,000
- (3) \$11,000
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$35,392
- (6) \$19,000
- (7) \$36,630
- (8) \$31,000

Legal Aid WA

- (1) \$251,916.00
- (2) nil
- (3) \$290,603.00
- (4) \$23,640.00

- (5) \$826,053.00
- (6) \$52,506.00
- (7) \$1,114,609.00
- (8) \$125,000

Equal Opportunity Commissioner

- (1) \$10,485.00
- (2) \$0
- (3) \$60,000.00
- (4) \$0
- (5) \$33,949.00
- (6) \$34,235.00
- (7) \$28,000.00
- (8) \$54,000.00

Crown Solicitor

The Crown Solicitor's Office's answer is part of the Ministry of Justice's answer.

Law Reform Commission

- (1) \$2881.31
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) \$4000.00
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) \$42,427.76
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) \$24,000.00
- (8) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE

1725. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

For each of the Government agencies for which the Premier has Ministerial responsibility -

- (1) What was the total recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (2) What was the total capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (3) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (4) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (5) What was the total recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (6) What was the total capital expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (7) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (8) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet

- (1) \$2,028,761.84
- (2) \$8,128.61
- (3) \$1,780,000.00
- (4) \$1,000.00
- (5) \$2,180,710.32
- (6) \$203,515.50
- (7) \$1,871,000.00
- (8) \$564,000.00

Treasury

- (1) \$114,730.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) \$152,000.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) \$385,193.
- (6) \$51,880.
- (7) \$437,000.
- (8) \$17,000.

Government Projects Office

- (1) \$2,037 (Treasury paid majority of charges)
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$10,000
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$17,540
- (6) Nil
- (7) \$15,000
- (8) Nil

Anti-Corruption Commission

- (1) \$125,512.72
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$160,000.00
- (4) \$51,000.00
- (5) \$364,137.08
- (6) \$60,000.00
- (7) \$494,000.00
- (8) \$385,000.00

Governor's Establishment

- (1) \$27,739
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$30,000
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$14,078
- (6) Nil
- (7) \$15,000
- (8) Nil

Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner

- (1) \$21,756
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$66,088
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$35,550
- (6) \$40,444
- (7) \$60,000 approximately
- (8) \$48,000 approximately

Gold Corporation

- (1) \$204,311
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$239,000
- (4) \$1,994 (PABX)
- (5) \$997,000
- (6) \$116,593
- (7) \$1 million
- (8) \$190,882

Office of the Auditor General

- (1) \$164,289
- (2) \$103,588
- (3) \$81,000
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$184,367
- (6) \$236,000
- (7) \$320,000
- (8) \$302,000

WA Treasury Corporation

- (1) \$66,680
- (2) Nil
- (3) \$62,500
- (4) Nil
- (5) \$142,827
- (6) \$341,469
- (7) \$190,950
- (8) \$1,639,200

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE

1734. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:

For each of the Government agencies for which the Minister for Public Sector Management has Ministerial responsibility -

- (1) What was the total recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (2) What was the total capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (3) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (4) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (5) What was the total recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (6) What was the total capital expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (7) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (8) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Please refer to response provided to question on notice 1725 of 6/4/2000.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE

1746. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Federal Affairs:

For each of the Government agencies for which the Minister for Federal Affairs has Ministerial responsibility -

- (1) What was the total recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (2) What was the total capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (3) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (4) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on telecommunications in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (5) What was the total recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (6) What was the total capital expenditure on information technology in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (7) What is the total estimated recurrent expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?
- (8) What is the total estimated capital expenditure on information technology in the 1999/2000 financial year?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Please refer to response provided to question on notice 1725 of 6/4/2000.

MINING, BREACHES OF ACT

1758. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to question on notice number 1998 of June 24 1998 and the Minister for Mines' answers -

Can the Minister check all the answers provided and advise whether he still stands by all of his answers?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The honourable member has raised issues which have been extensively investigated and dealt with in the past. I consider that further expenditure of resources in re-visiting these matters cannot be justified. Any residual concerns that may exist regarding these matters should be referred to the Ombudsman for investigation as this avenue has been established by the Government to address such matters.

CARNARVON FLOODS, BUY-BACK SCHEME

1769. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Resources Development:

I refer to an article that appeared in the *Northern Guardian* on April 5 2000, about the Carnarvon floods where the Member for Ningaloo has made reference to a Government buy back scheme and ask -

- (1) Can the Minister for Regional Development advise whether there is such a buy back scheme in place?
- (2) If yes, how many properties will be affected?
- (3) What will be the assessment criteria for buy back?
- (4) Who will be contacting those most likely to be affected?
- (5) When will they be contacted?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) There has been some discussion regarding a buy back scheme for those properties which continually flood, for example at Sheridan Gully. At this stage no scheme has been developed, but the Minister for Water Resources has requested the Water and Rivers Commission to investigate ways of reducing flood levels in the future.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

1771. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister for Education table a list of Government programs aimed at early childhood intervention programs in response to the special needs of children with learning difficulties?
- (2) What funds are available for these programs in 1999/2000?
- (3) What number of education psychologists are currently employed in Government schools across Western Australia?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1) Schools and Districts develop and implement a range of educational programs/interventions in response to individual and local needs. The Education Department's early childhood intervention initiatives include the following:

- Early Childhood Education program, guaranteeing a place in kindergarten and pre-primary programs and the Students at Educational Risk strategy which provides guidelines for early identification and intervention, starting in kindergarten.
- The Centre For Inclusive Schooling supports kindergarten and pre-primary students with Autism Spectrum Disorder through professional development and an Autism Intervention service.
- Language Development Centres and satellite classes provide intensive support for students from kindergarten to year 4 with speech and language impairments.
- School Based Community Nursing, which in partnership with the Health Department, provides early intervention services to schools commencing with kindergarten students.

Programs aimed at early childhood intervention include:

Literacy Net P – 3

The P-3 phase of the Literacy Net focuses on the early identification of children who may require early assistance in terms of their literacy development.

The P-3 Literacy Net incorporates ongoing monitoring of students against literacy checkpoints.

Commonwealth Literacy and Numeracy Program

The Commonwealth Literacy Program funding targets those students most at risk of not achieving adequate literacy and numeracy skills and assists schools in the achievement of measurable improvements in literacy and numeracy outcomes. Schools are encouraged to use funding to assist students in the crucial early years so that every child commencing school from 1998 will achieve a minimum acceptable literacy and numeracy standard within four years.

Early Literacy Assessment Strategies for Aboriginal Children

The Early Literacy Assessment Strategies Project for Aboriginal Students is a professional development program to assist schools to improve the literacy outcomes of P-2 Indigenous students. The project promotes an integrated approach to assisting identified students improve literacy outcomes, involving the whole school, P-2 teachers, AIEWS, parents and care givers.

Indigenous Language Speaking Student Program

The Indigenous Language Speaking Student program provides funding to facilitate the entry of Aboriginal students into education by providing intensive English language tuition to each eligible student. This program has been developed for Aboriginal students who rarely hear English until they arrive at school. Its focus is on non-English speaking Aboriginal students of all ages entering formal schooling for the first time.

National Literacy and Numeracy Cross-Sectoral Project

The Project focuses on the provision of professional development to support mainstream classroom teachers P-3 in early identification and intervention and in the use of the National Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks. The project provides support to schools to address National and State goals relating to improved literacy and numeracy outcomes for students in the early years.

English as a Second Language (General Component)

ESL support programs provide ongoing support to ESL students who have more than two years in an Australian school and have sufficient oral and written English to participate in classroom activities. The programs include a cell model, an ESL Aboriginal Literacy Program and an ESL Visiting teacher service.

First Steps: Literacy

First Steps Professional Development, teaching materials and consultancy services are provided to schools on request. First Steps supports teachers and assists them in monitoring student development and planning appropriate education.

Deadly Ways to Learn

Two teacher resource books and two information videos have been developed to support teachers working with Aboriginal students. They provide teachers with strategies that will enable them to implement bidialectal teaching approaches which support literacy outcomes of Aboriginal English speaking students. These are particularly useful when working with students who come to school speaking a non-standard dialect of English because literacy is typically mediated in Standard Australian English.

Reading Recovery Pilot

A Reading Recovery pilot program will commence in 2000 with expressions of interest being sought from schools. The Reading Recovery Program is an early intervention and withdrawal program designed to reduce the number of students with literacy difficulties after the first year of schooling. It is one of a number of early intervention programs that schools can implement to support the literacy improvement of students.

The ABC of Two Way Literacy and Learning

The ABC of Two-Way Literacy and Learning is a professional development project being conducted by the Department. The ABC project seeks to influence the socio-cultural and linguistic climate of schools so they become more attractive and effective for Aboriginal students.

Fitzroy Crossing Mobile Kindergarten Service

The Fitzroy Crossing Mobile Kindergarten provides an early childhood education playgroup services for families and children located in several outlying Aboriginal communities in the Fitzroy Crossing valley. It is a cooperative initiative between Family and Children's Services and the Health Department focusing on the care, health and early education of young children in outlying communities.

Early Literacy and Numeracy Program (ELAN)

ELAN teachers or part time teachers are provided to support literacy and numeracy programs for indigenous students in the early years.

Best Start Project

Best start is a project aimed at achieving coordination and cooperation between the three government agencies of Family and Children's Services, Health and Education to improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal children aged 0 – 5 years. It is seen as an early intervention approach and focuses on the care, health and early education of young children to provide them with greater opportunities at a young age.

Supporter Reader Program

The Supporter Reader Program assists teachers/home tutors and parents to identify students experiencing difficulties with literacy.

Parents as Partners - Learning Difficulties Program

The program has been developed and trialed in metropolitan districts to improve parent and school partnerships particularly for students K – 3.

- (2) Funding available for systemic early intervention initiatives 1999/2000 includes:

1999/00	\$6 million	Commonwealth Literacy Program Funding
1999/00	\$3.1 million	Student at Educational Risk Strategy
1999/00	\$13.23 million	Early Childhood Education program
2000	\$4 million	School Based Community Nursing
1999/00	\$79 000	Autism Intervention Service
2000	\$194 105	Language Development Centres

Funding available for specific early intervention programs 1999/2000 includes:

Financial Year		
1999/00	\$ 100 000	Literacy Net P – 3
1999/00	\$ 900 000	English as a Second Language
1999/00	\$ 95 000	Fitzroy Crossing Mobile Kindergarten Service
1999/00	\$ 5 000	Supporter Reader Program
1999/00	\$ 10 000	Parents as Partners - Learning Difficulties Program

Calendar Year

1999	\$ 350 000	Early Literacy Assessment Strategies for Aboriginal Children
2000	\$ 50 000	
1999	\$ 490 000	National Literacy and Numeracy Cross-Sectoral Project
1999	\$ 90 000	Deadly Ways to Learn
1999	\$ 40 000	The ABC of Two Way Literacy & Learning
2000	\$ 50 000	
2000	\$1 600 000	Indigenous Language Speaking Student Program
2000	\$ 10 000	First Steps
2000	\$ 76 000	Reading Recovery Pilot
2000	\$ 440 000	Early Literacy and Numeracy Program

Best Start Project is funded by Departments of Family and Children's Services and Health.

- (3) The Education Department employs 166.8 FTE school psychologists in schools and 21 psychologists in management positions in the Student Services Directorate of the Education Department.

BUNBURY BACK BEACH, GROYNES

1772. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Resources Development:

In relation to the erection of groynes along the Bunbury Back Beach -

- (1) Has an "Environmental Management and Maintenance Program" been prepared for this project?
- (2) If yes, who prepared it and has it been sent for approval to the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The plan was prepared by GHD Pty Ltd in association with Des Lord and Associates, Port and Harbour Consultants and SMEC Consultants. The Plan has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Authority. Agreement on future monitoring of the beach as agreed to is part of the endorsement.
- (3) Not applicable.

BUNBURY BACK BEACH, PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1773. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Resources Development:

In relation to the Bunbury Back Beach Project -

As the Minister for Regional Development has provided the House with details of the level of public consultation which occurred following the announcement of this project (question on notice 1511) -

- (1) Can the Minister provide The House with details of public consultation on the current proposal prior to its announcement?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Public Consultation in relation to Bunbury's Coastal Enhancement Project commenced in 1993 with the formation of the Bunbury Coast Care Committee and the development of the Bunbury Coast Care Strategy. This document was revised in 1994 based on extensive public consultation. Options for groynes were canvassed and a small community survey of 33 people found the majority would support a groyne option. This initial consultation served to inform further work undertaken by the City of Bunbury leading to an initial concept plan for the Back beach area being presented by the Bunbury Coast Care Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor Tony Dean. The plan was subject to widespread community input including public displays, stakeholder group meetings and community surveys. In relation to the matter of groynes a survey of 222 people at that time indicated 54 % would support groynes as a protection measure, 15% were neutral and 34 % opposed the use of groynes.

The most significant finding was that the community opposed any form of development as a means of funding coastal protection and improvement to local amenity. A second concept plan developed by the city in the same year removed development at the recreation ground in response to community concern but retained other development nodes. The plan was subject to widespread consultation including a telephone poll. This poll was found to be invalid due to leading question techniques in an independent review by Edith Cowan University. Examination of comments made by the public in relation to that plan indicated the public did not want any form of commercial or residential development in the area and they wanted the problems at the Back Beach addressed. Public comments indicated that groynes were acceptable as an erosion control measure.

The Government undertook to assist the further development of the project in 1996-97 with the formation of a steering group chaired by the Member for Bunbury with the support of Mayor John Castrilli as Deputy Chair. Following further public consultation, the Government removed the requirement to fund the project through commercial development of reserve land and agreed to an enhancement and protection proposal based on the beach foreshore and the Wellington precinct.

The Current Coastal Enhancement Steering Committee, with the input of the City of Bunbury, reviewed the previous five years of public consultation up to 1998 to determine the design objectives for this project. For the benefit of members the final objectives were:

Reduce erosion problems in the Back Beach area
Enhance conservation values along the beachfront
Rationalise existing road and carparking layouts
Improve public amenity in the area

These objectives are consistent with the considerable public input that had occurred prior to the Government committing funds to proceed to design and are consistent with public sentiment that the project should not include commercial development and should definitively address the problem of erosion at the Back Beach. Prior to the release of the final project design confidential briefings were held with Western Power, Main Roads, Agwest, the Bunbury City Council Councillors and staff, the Convenor of the South West Environment Centre and the Regional Coastal Facilitator.

BUSHPLAN, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1783. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

In respect of Perth Bushplan -

- (1) Will the Minister for Planning let me know if the Memorandum of Understanding between Government agencies relating to Perth's Bushplan has been signed?
- (2) If yes, when will it be released for public scrutiny?

- (3) Will the proposed Bushplan Memorandum of Understanding between Government agencies remove the primacy of the *Environmental Protection Act*?
- (4) Will the proposed Bushplan Memorandum of Understanding between Government agencies require the Environmental Protection Authority to forego its legislative powers to assess proposals involving Bushplan sites?
- (5) If yes, why is the Government proposing to restrict public participation in the environmental impact assessment process?
- (6) Will the proposed Bushplan Memorandum of Understanding between Government agencies require all Government landholders to fully comply with Government environmental policies, strategies, plans, statements and agreements, including the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's biological diversity?
- (7) If not, why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Yes - it has not been signed.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)-(4) No. A Bushplan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) cannot remove the provisions under existing legislation but can clarify agency roles and responsibilities.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6)-(7) The MOU will focus on the role and responsibilities of the key agencies involved in Bushplan.

VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE CLUBS, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

1787. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Does the Minister for Emergency Services support the charging of GST on memberships to local Volunteer Sea Rescue Clubs?
- (2) If yes, how does the Minister justify this charge to members of the community manning radios to ensure the safety of all boat users?
- (3) Has the Minister approached the Federal Government in an attempt to obtain an exemption for such organisations?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I do not support the charging of GST on memberships to local Volunteer Sea Rescue Clubs. As the Hon Member should be aware, I have some 23,000 volunteers within my portfolio. The Federal Government's committee has received numerous submissions from the various volunteer groups regarding impact of the GST on their activities. Exemptions for Deductible Gift Recipient Status and Income Tax Charity Status have already been received. In addition, FESA is in the process of making a detailed submission to the Australian Taxation Office seeking an exemption for all Emergency Service Volunteer Groups.

FISHERIES, AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA MARITIME DELIMITATION TREATY

1790. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Does the Minister for Fisheries support the Australia-Indonesia Maritime Delimitation Treaty (AIMDT)?
- (2) If yes, is the Minister aware of concerns that this treaty may be in contravention of international seabed law as defined under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea?
- (3) Will this proposed treaty reduce fishing areas and fish stocks currently available to Australian fishermen?
- (4) What steps will the Government take to ensure there is no increase in the number of illegal immigrants, illegal fishing and contraband carriage as a result of the introduction of this treaty?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that this issue was investigated by the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on Treaties and the treaty was not found to be in contravention of UNCLOS.
- (3) No, the treaty formalises fishing areas between Australia and Indonesia that were provisionally agreed in 1982. However, recent developments in East Timor may require the Treaty to be reviewed.
- (4) This is an area of Commonwealth Government responsibility.

BUSHPLAN, SITES UNDER THREAT

1837. Hon NORM KELLY to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) How many Bushplan sites currently do not have full protection from possible clearing, or other threats?
- (2) Will the Minister for Planning identify these sites?
- (3) What are the specific threats for each of these Bushplan sites?
- (4) Have any Bushplan sites been cleared either entirely or in part?
- (5) If so, which sites?
- (6) Was Government authorisation required and/or given to clear the vegetation of any of these Bushplan sites?
- (7) If so, who gave the authorisation?
- (8) If not, what action is being taken against offenders for clearing either part or all of a Bushplan site?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(3) The Draft Perth's Bushplan identifies sites with some level of protection and which form part of the existing conservation estate, approximately 64%. The remainder will be protected through the implementation of the plan through a range of mechanisms, including: reservation and acquisition by the State, encouraging private land management and negotiated outcomes for those sites with existing approvals and commitments. The latter affects only a small proportion of land affected by Bushplan and will involve a limited amount of clearing as a trade off for development in accordance with their existing approvals. The implementation category for each Bushplan Site will be identified in the final Bushplan report.
- (4) Isolated cases of some clearing within 10 Bushplan Sites have been reported. There are 285 Bushplan Sites.
- (5) A few isolated lots within Bushplan Sites: 125, 42, 327, 472, 386, 390, 87, 378, 387 and 65 have been reported.
- (6)-(8) This depends whether the reported cases legally constitutes clearing under the under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* and a requirement to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) through the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation. When this has not occurred the Commissioner can take the required action depending on the circumstances of the case. Once notified of clearing activity without submission of a NOI, officers of the government agencies involved with Bushplan contact relevant personnel at the office of the Commissioner who visit the reported site to investigate and pursue any necessary course of action.

ID CARDS, PROCESSING TIME

1861. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Department of Transport have a guideline for the length of time it should take to process and provide age ID cards?
- (2) What is the current average length of time taken by the Department of Transport to process age ID cards?
- (3) What is the current average length of time taken to process age ID cards at Warwick Licensing Centre?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is greater than the answer (2), why is this so?
- (5) Can people apply for the ID card prior to their 18th birthday and receive it immediately after their birthday?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Proof of Age cards are currently produced from a Polaroid photograph provided by the customer. Licensing sites are required to forward the photograph and the transaction card produced with the payment to the contractor at the close of business each day. The contractor is required to manufacture and mail the proof of age card within 48 hours of receipt of all the data required for production of the card.
- (2) The average turnaround time for production of a proof of age card is eight to ten working days from the time the customer attends a licensing outlet to receipt of the card.
- (3) The current average length of time taken to process proof of age cards at Warwick Licensing Centre is eight to ten working days.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) A person must have turned 18 years of age before application for a proof of age card can be made.
- (6) Proof of Age Cards are issued under the provision of the Liquor Licensing Act and Regulations. Regulation 18B(1) requires an applicant for a Proof of Age Card to be 18 years of age. The current technology used to produce Proof of Age Cards does not allow for an improvement in the turnaround time for the production of a

card. However, Transport Licensing intends to convert to the use of digital technology to produce these cards in the near future which will reduce the turnaround time for production to two to three days.

ARBITER PTY LTD, CONTRACTS WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1868. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the recent report by the Auditor General and his concerns about the Health Department contracts with Arbiter Pty Ltd and ask -

- (1) How many contracts did the Auditor General audit that had been awarded to Arbiter Pty Ltd?
- (2) For each contract awarded to Arbiter Pty Ltd, that was audited by the Auditor General, can the Minister for Health provide the following information -
 - (a) the date the contract was awarded;
 - (b) the date the contract was completed;
 - (c) the services provided by Arbiter Pty Ltd;
 - (d) the original contract cost;
 - (e) the actual final contract cost;
 - (f) the reasons for any variations in costs;
 - (g) whether the Health Department sought -
 - (i) verbal quotes;
 - (ii) written quotes; or
 - (iii) tenders, and
 - (h) if no to (g), why not?
- (3) Has the Health Department made any changes to its contracting policy in the wake of the Auditor General's report?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) One.
- (2)
 - (a) 1 July 1998.
 - (b) 30 November 1998.
 - (c) To act in an independent role and review a wide range of current projects addressing; quality assurance issues, contract acquittal and the tendering and evaluation of outsourcing arrangements and to make recommendations on such to the Commissioner of Health.
 - (d) \$47,500.
 - (e) \$76,926.
 - (f) The officer engaging Arbiter Pty Ltd on behalf of the Procurement Panel sought to invoke the relevant clause of the 1998 contract in the genuine belief that the contract value had not been reached. Given the time of issuing the letter of engagement the officer was of the opinion that there were sufficient funds available to conduct the range of services provided.
 - (g) No.
 - (h) A request for exemption from the Tender/Proposal/Quotation for Arbiter Pty Ltd was approved by the Department's Procurement Review Panel for projects to an estimated value of \$47,500. It was considered that there would be little to be gained in seeking quotes as adequate grounds existed to justify the direct appointment of Arbiter Pty Ltd, given their unique skills and experience as outlined in the Tender/Proposal Quotation exemption.
- (3) The Health Department of Western Australia's commitment to embracing a sound contract process has included a number of reform initiatives recently. These include :
 - The establishment of a Procurement Review Panel to monitor the procurement process for contracts between \$20,000 and \$250,000.
 - The production of a comprehensive manual by the Procurement Review Panel on tender and contract processes.
 - The development of specific training courses. These courses focus on:
 - Deliverables and outcomes;
 - Contract Management and controls;
 - Contract payments and variations;
 - Monitoring systems;
 - Key performance indicators; and
 - Contract completion review

WOOROLOO SOUTH PRISON, TABLING OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1878. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General:

I refer to your correspondence to Members of Parliament dated February 26 1999, ref 53383 in regard to the appointment

of Corrections Corporation of Australia as Preferred Respondent to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the new secure prison to be built at Wooroloo South.

- (1) Will you now table the financials that you advised would be disclosed on the successful conclusion of the contract negotiations?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) On 12 April 2000, as the Minister for Justice, I tabled the three contracts the State has with the Corrections Corporation of Australia in respect to the Acacia Prison project. The contracts are:

Acacia Prison Design and Construction Agreement
Acacia Prison Maintenance Agreement
Acacia Prison Services Agreement

The contracts include full financial details, with the exception of liquidated damages in the Design and Construction Agreement. Information on liquidated damages will be released on completion of the Design and Construction Agreement.

- (2) Not applicable.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOODS AND SERVICES TAX IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE COSTS

1924. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the Education Department estimate of initial implementation costs of the GST for -
 - (a) Western Australian Government schools; and
 - (b) all Western Australian schools?
- (2) What are the estimated ongoing GST compliance costs for Government and non-Government schools in Western Australia?
- (3) What funding, either direct or indirect, has been paid or is anticipated to be paid, to cover these costs?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(3) The initial estimate was about \$7.0 million, inclusive of all possible costs relating to administration of the Tax, development of software, infrastructure, training and additional clerical time. As the existing infrastructure is adaptable and the accounting systems in schools can be easily modified to accommodate automated processing, the cost will now be significantly lower than the original estimate. Training of staff is estimated at \$900 000. Following implementation, the administrative impact on schools will be assessed and any additional resource requirements will be identified.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, DISABILITY SERVICE PLANS

1928. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Education:

Can the Minister for Education table a copy of all Disability Service plans for agencies in his portfolios?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

Education Department of Western Australia

Yes. See tabled paper "Education Department of Western Australia Disability Service Plan 1995". This plan is currently being revised.

Department of Education Services

Yes. See tabled paper "Department of Education Services Disability Service Plan 1996".

Country High School Hostels Authority

Yes. See tabled paper "Country High School Hostels Authority Disability Service Plan 1995".

Curriculum Council

Yes. See tabled paper "Disability Service Plan for Curriculum Council".

[See paper No 1073.]

YAGAN'S HEAD, DARBARL YERRIGAN COMMITTEE

1934. Hon CHRISTINE SHARP to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

In respect to the Darbarl Yerrigan Committee for the reburial of Yagan's head and associated project -

- (1) Can the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs inform the House, department by department as to the total sum of all monies expended to date by -

- (a) The Aboriginal Affairs Department;
 - (b) Homeswest; and
 - (c) The Department for Water Resources?
- (2) Have any Federal funds been employed, if so, by which department and for what purpose?
 - (3) Could the Minister table all documents submitted to the Shire of Swan for planning and building approval by Chairman Richard Wilkes in February of 1999?
 - (4) Could the Minister explain why in September of 1999 when a representative from the Swan Valley Nyungah Community called in to the Shire of Swan to view the plans of the project he was not allowed and the plans were withdrawn the next day?
 - (5)
 - (a) for what purpose was a constructional engineer, Mr Garry Bettison, engaged;
 - (b) from what date was Mr Bettison engaged; and
 - (c) could the Minister table the terms and conditions of his consultancy?
 - (6) How did the Minister propose to fund the construction aspect of the project in February 1999 when the plans were submitted?
 - (7) Had the Minister entered into any agreements with third party's in respect to the project, if so what were those agreements and to whom?
 - (8) Given the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has for two years been unsuccessful in locating Yagan's grave, will the Minister give Yagan's head to the traditional land owners for this area, the Swan Valley Nyungah Community, as requested?
 - (9) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)
 - (a) \$57,550.00.
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) Nil (Water Corporation)
- (2) Yes, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission provided a grant to the Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD) in the amount of \$10,000.00 by way of reimbursement of costs associated with the visit to the United Kingdom by the Yagan delegation in 1997.
- (3) AAD did not submit any plans to the City of Swan. A Concept Master Plan for Lot 39 Upper Swan Road was prepared by consultant Michael Tooby and Associates on behalf of the Ministry for Planning and Derbarl Yerrigan Committee in November 1998.
- (4) Neither the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or AAD have any knowledge of this matter. The Hon Member may wish to contact the City of Swan or the Derbarl Yerrigan Committee for further information.
- (5)
 - (a) Mr Bettison is not a constructional engineer. He is a senior public servant who was seconded to AAD to assist the Derbarl Yerrigan Committee on administrative matters as Project Consultant.
 - (b) 10 March 1999 to 26 November 1999.
 - (c) Refer to 5(a).
- (6) Refer to (3). The Derbarl Yerrigan Committee considered a mix of potential private sector and government agency funding sources.
- (7) The Minister has not entered into any agreements with third parties in respect of this matter. At the request of the Derbarl Yerrigan Committee, AAD provided specifications to undertake scientific research and an archaeological search. Professor Richard Wright and a two member search team were contracted to conduct a search for the remains of Yagan.
- (8) The Minister does not have custody of or control over the skull or "Kaat" of Yagan. Custody of Yagan's Kaat lies with the Derbarl Yerrigan Committee which is comprised of senior members of the Nyungah Community with ties to the Swan River area.
- (9) Refer to (8). Further, whilst individual members of the Swan Valley Nyungah Community (SVNC) may have ties to the Swan River area, the SVNC does not represent all Nyungah people with traditional and historical ties to the area.

USED CAR ENGINES, IMPORTED

1952. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the House representing the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) How many second hand car engines were imported into Western Australia during 1999?
- (2) What testing is done on these engines to ensure that emission controls and standards meet Australian standards?
- (3) Are there any State laws or regulations that can be used to control imports of used car engines?

- (4) If so, what are they?
- (5) Are there any Federal laws or regulations that can be used to control imports of used car engines?
- (6) If so, what are they?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No records are kept by Transport.
- (2) None.
- (3) No.
- (4) Refer to (3) above.
- (5)-(6) Vehicle engines and other products can be denied entry into Australia if the Commonwealth passes a regulation under the Customs Act which renders these products as "prohibited imports". Following the agreements undertaken by the Federal Government and the Democrats concerning emissions, the Federal Government proposed a new regulation under the Customs Act which was to make used diesel engines a prohibited import unless the importer could show that the engine complied with Australian requirements for emissions. The regulation was eventually disallowed by a motion from the Labor Party.

BAIL REMAND CENTRE, NORTH WEST

1954. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to statements last month by the Ministry of Justice that it will consider submissions to establish a temporary bail remand centre in the north of WA and ask -

- (1) What is the cost of establishing a permanent bail remand centre in the north west?
- (2) What has been the annual cost since 1993 of transferring juveniles to Perth, including police man hours, which would otherwise be avoided if a permanent bail remand centre existed?
- (3) What is the progress to date on establishing a temporary bail remand centre?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) There are no plans to establish a remand centre in the North West. However negotiations for the provision of a supervised bail program are taking place. The operation of this program is being considered on a fee for service basis.
- (2) The Police Service is responsible for the transport of juvenile offenders to and from country Court appearances. This question should therefore be referred to the Minister for Police.
- (3) See 1 above.

LIQUOR LICENCE, FITZROY CROSSING

1956. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Will the Minister for Planning support Fitzroy Crossing residents and community groups along with the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and reject the appeal, which if upheld, would allow for an additional liquor outlet to be established in an existing building?
- (2) Will the Minister guarantee that objectors to the proposal will be given equal access to his appeals officer as the applicants who have appealed?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(2) The appeal the Member refers to was the subject of a full investigation by a Member of the Town Planning Appeal Committee and the Minister for Planning was briefed on all matters relating to the appeal, including objections by local residents. After taking into account all relevant considerations, on 4 May 2000 the Minister for Planning dismissed the appeal in accordance with the recommendation from the investigating Member. The parties to the appeal have been duly informed of the reasons for the decision by letter dated 4 May 2000.

WINDIMURRA VANADIUM PENTOXIDE MINE AND PROCESSING PLANT, REPORT ON IMPACT OF BOREFIELD

1962. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Minister for Mines:

Regarding the Windimurra vanadium pentoxide mine and processing plant.

- (1) Will the Minister table the copy of the report supplied by Vanadium Australia to the Department of Minerals and Energy on the possible impact of its borefield on the pastoral property bores?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes, I table the report titled "Assessment of Pumping from the Shallow Aquifer Borefield with respect to the Windimurra Station Water Supply, Windimurra Vanadium Project. January 2000". [See paper No 1071.]

- (2) Not applicable.

TAILINGS STORAGE GUIDELINES, EXEMPTIONS

1964. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to the May 1999 "Guidelines on the Safe Design and Operating Standards for Tailings Storage", page 54 of the document.

- (1) Can the Minister explain why and how some projects may be "exempt" from the "works approval" "provisions" of the *Environmental Protection Act* if they meet the Environmental Protection (Gold Extraction Operations) Exemption Order 1992?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(2) Some gold projects may satisfy conditions in either Schedule 1, Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 of the "Environmental Protection (Gold Extraction Operations) Exemption Order 1993 a copy of which is attached. [See paper No 1072.]

KANOWNNA MINES LTD, FINE

1965. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to question on notice number 622 of September 23 1999 and the Minister's answers.

- (1) Can the Minister state why the holder of M27/164 Kanownna Mines Ltd (Delta Gold N.L) was required "to consult with and obtain" the "prior permission" from both "the Department of Minerals and Energy and the local government authority"?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Can the Minister explain how the figure of a \$2000 fine was reached?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Mining Lease 27/164 is partially located over the Kanownna townsite. Before mining can take place on a townsite Ministerial consent is required following consultation with the responsible Minister (Lands) and the vested local government authority. In this case, the town of Kalgoorlie requested that a condition be imposed which required its approval prior to any surface activities being conducted. Accordingly Condition 19 was imposed which provides that access to the Kanownna townsite for mining purposes is subject to the approval of the local authority and the State Mining Engineer. The lessee had already obtained the prior permission of the Department of Minerals and Energy when approval was given to the 'Notice of Intent for the Golden Feather Ballarat Last Chance Pit'. The company acknowledged after the event that it should have consulted with the department when the work was going to be done.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The figure of \$2 000 as a fine was determined after taking the following factors into account:--
the bund construction was part of the approved Notice of Intention proposal relating to the lease;
the bund was constructed for safety reasons;
the activity did not involve destruction of significant vegetation;
it would have been a relatively straightforward exercise for the company to have consulted with the Department of Minerals and Energy and sought the permission of the local authority prior to constructing the bund;
the necessity for companies to ensure that they comply with the provisions of the Mining Act and be aware that these issues are subject to scrutiny; and
the imposition of a fine would reinforce the requirement that lease conditions must be closely observed.
- (4) Not applicable.

MINING, MT CHARLOTTE BLASTING OPERATIONS

1969. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to a letter dated March 17 1998 titled "EPA Formal assessment no 1191 Mt Charlotte - Proposed surface workings" concerning the ROB and NOB proposed Open pits and Floor Pillars which was addressed to Hon Cheryl Edwardes, Minister for the Environment from Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd with a copy sent to Hon Norman Moore, Minister for Mines and others.

- (1) Will the Minister for Mines and his department under the Statutory Acts regulated by the Department of Minerals and Energy be approving and allowing KCGM to cause serious danger to nearby residents houses and persons in close proximity in Williamstown given that it was stated in the above letter that "KCGM envisages that the blasts will initiate evacuation from some houses nearby for short periods on two mornings only when the blasts occur?"

- (2) If yes, why?
- (3) Can the Minister explain why KCGM envisaged “.....that the blasts will initiate evacuations from some houses nearby for short periods on two mornings only when the blasts occur”?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No. The Department of Minerals and Energy would not allow the blasting of the floor pillars if the Department considered that the blasts would cause a serious danger to the public.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) KCGM has advised that it is committed to protecting the public and its employees during the blast. The company in envisaging the evacuation of some nearby houses appears to be taking a precautionary course of action to ensure the safety of nearby residents should an unplanned or unforeseen event occur during the blasts. This is consistent with safe mining practice. Matters relating to the “envisaged evacuation of nearby residents” may change following the completion of the final mining plan for the removal of the two floor pillars.
- (4) Not applicable.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS AND INTERIM SUPERVISION ORDERS

1971. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Attorney General:

- (1) How many new Community Service Orders (CSOs) were commenced in the 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years?
- (2) How many new Interim Supervision Orders (ISOs) were commenced in the 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years?
- (3) What was the total hours ordered in each of (1) and (2) above in 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years?
- (4) What was the average hours for -
- (a) CSOs; and
- (b) ISOs?
- (5) What was the number/percentage of completions of -
- (a) CSOs and
- (b) ISOs?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Community Based Orders Commenced
- | | With Work* | Without Work* | Total |
|-------|------------|---------------|-------|
| 97/98 | 1715 | 721 | 2436 |
| 98/99 | 1718 | 660 | 2378 |
- (2) Intensive Supervision Orders Commenced
- | | With Work* | Without Work* | Total |
|-------|------------|---------------|-------|
| 97/98 | 615 | 358 | 973 |
| 98/99 | 604 | 340 | 944 |
- (3) Hours Ordered
- | | Community Based Orders | Intensive Supervision Orders |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 97/98 | 143,159 | 82,808 |
| 98/99 | 139,284 | 79,922 |
- (4) Average Hours Ordered per Order Commenced
(as a proportion of Orders with Work only)
- | | Community Based Orders | Intensive Supervision Orders |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 97/98 | 83.47 | 134.65 |
| 98/99 | 81.07 | 132.33 |
- (5) Successful Completion Rates **
(As a proportion of Orders terminated during the financial year; includes orders both with and without work)
- | | Community Based Orders | Intensive Supervision Orders |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 97/98 | 64.10% | 38.68% |
| 98/99 | 64.42% | 51.41% |

NOTES:

* Under Section 64 the Sentencing Act a Community Based Order can contain at least one of the following (can also be combined):

- (1) – supervision requirement
- (2) – program requirement
- (3) – community service requirement (community work).
- “Work” refers to part (3), “without work” refers to parts (1) & (2).

An Intensive Supervision Order must contain a supervision requirement but may include community service program and or a curfew.

****** *Intensive Supervision and Community Based Orders were established in 1996 to replace Probation and Community Service Orders. Consequently, success rates should be interpreted carefully until orders have been able to run their full course.*

CRIME, REDUCTION OF RE-OFFENDING RATES

1972. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Attorney General:

Does the Government have any specific target to reduce re-offending rates?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

The Government has a target rate of 34% for re-offending, as reported in the budget papers. Reducing re-offending rates is broader than that reported in the budget papers which only includes prisons and community corrections. Hence, the Government's crime reduction strategy includes:

1. Early intervention / reducing criminality through co-ordination of services across Government Agencies targeting those factors associated with criminality;
2. Safer WA initiatives;
3. Diversion of minor offenders from the criminal justice system; and
4. Rehabilitation of offenders under community supervision and in custody.

PLANT VARIETY RIGHTS LEGISLATION, CHALLENGE TO VALIDITY

1973. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Is the Government committed to the spirit of the *State Trading Concerns Act 1999* and to the commercialisation of intellectual property assets, including property rights, under plant variety rights legislation?
- (2) If so, will the Minister for Primary Industry explain to the House why the State Government has intervened in the High Court of Australia in support of a Western Australian agency's challenge to the validity of the Commonwealth's plant varieties legislation?
- (3) How does the Government reconcile those conflicting positions concerning intellectual property rights?
- (4) What estimate has been made of the potential cost of the High Court challenge to WA taxpayers?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(4) On 5 May 1998, Cultivaust Pty Ltd (Cultivaust) issued a writ out of the High Court against the State of WA claiming that s.22 of the Grain Marketing Act is inconsistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Plant Breeder's Rights Act. The Grain Pool subsequently lodged a Writ in the High Court on 7 August 1998. The defendants in the Grain Pool's writ are the Commonwealth and Cultivaust. This action was a direct challenge to the constitutional validity of the Plant Breeder's Rights Act. The State joined this challenge as the Grain Pool's single desk for barley, lupins and canola was under threat. It should be noted that on 23 March 2000 the High Court of Australia ruled that both the Plant Variety Rights Act and the Plant Breeder's Rights Act are supported in their entirety by s.51 (xviii) of the Constitution and hence are valid. As a result, all Plant Breeders Rights held by Agriculture Western Australia are valid. No orders for costs were made against the State. To 1 December 1999 costs of the State in defending the action were estimated to be \$40,000. Employees and officers of the Crown have conducted that action, and many of the costs are largely indirect. As such they reflect amounts that would have been incurred by the State in any event.

ROCK LOBSTER POTS, USE OF ANIMAL HIDES

1974. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Has the use of animal hides as a holding bait in rock lobster pots been identified as a cause of quality and marketing problems in some markets for WA rock lobster?
- (2) If so, has the Department of Fisheries or the Minister for Fisheries announced any action that is aimed at dealing with this problem?
- (3) If so, does that action include a possible ban on the use of animal hides for this purpose?
- (4) Has this ban been put in place, or is it intended to put this ban in place?
- (5) Has a strategy been put in place to identify and develop an alternative holding bait as a replacement for hides?
- (6) If so, will the Minister provide me with information which details the progress of this strategy, including -
 - (a) possible alternative products that have been so far identified;
 - (b) results of performance testing of these products;

- (c) funds that have been provided to individuals or corporations in relation to the strategy;
- (d) information that has been supplied to processors and the catching sector; and
- (e) other information that the Minister for Fisheries deems relevant to the development of an alternative holding bait?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Agency is supporting industry in its attempts to address the issue and is assisting the industry to undertake research to help identify viable alternatives to hocks and hides as "holding bait".
- (3)-(4) No.
- (5)-(6) Fisheries WA has assisted the fishing industry in trials of alternative baits. It has also supported other associated research projects undertaken by the University of WA.
 - (a) Alternatives being considered and developed by various parties include hide with hair removed, various agriculture-based products, organic and chemical based attractants.
 - (b) While some preliminary results were presented at the last Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee Coastal Tour, the complete analysis and report on the most recent trials undertaken by industry on alternative baits is still to be completed.
 - (c) A number of commercial and research-based organisations across Australia have been involved in developing alternative baits. I am aware that the Commonwealth Fisheries Research and Development Corporation has provided some funding for two WA based projects.
 - (d) See (b).
 - (e) Not applicable.

CHILD CARE, KIMBERLEY

1975. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What 2000/01 Budget funding is provided for the establishment of new day care and occasional care facilities in the Kimberley region?
- (2) Will funding be allocated for specialist child care programs for indigenous people?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(2) It is proposed that 14 new occasional child care services will be established on Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region in 2000/01. The total funding allocated for the new services in the Kimberley region in 2000/2001 is \$268,000, comprising \$60,000 recurrent funding and \$208,000 one-off funding for establishment costs and minor capital works.

MR NEIL WINZER, ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

1980. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to question on notice 880 of March 14 2000 and I ask -

- (1) How many detailed responses has Mr Neil Winzer received from the Department of Transport to his correspondence?
- (2) On what dates were these responses sent to Mr Winzer?
- (3) On what date did Mr Winzer meet with the present Acting Director General to discuss his allegations?
- (4) Can the Minister provide details of the actions taken by Transport to examine Mr Winzer's allegations?
- (5) Can the Minister provide an alternative explanation to the circumstances surrounding the meeting of January 29 1999 to that which points to four senior Transport officers having collaborated to harass Mr Winzer with the objective of getting him to make incriminating statements, and thus silence him in relation to his public interest disclosures?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Transport has responded to correspondence received from Mr Winzer on three occasions.
- (2) 12 October 1999; 25 October 1999; 3 November 1999.
- (3) 29 January 1999.
- (4) As there has been no identification of non-compliance on the part of Transport in relation to Mr Winzer's allegations, no action is required to be taken. This case is complex and involves ongoing enquiries outside Transport. For example, certain matters raised by Mr Winzer are pending determination by the WA Industrial Relations Commission. I would be happy to arrange a briefing for the honourable member if requested.

- (5) The purpose of the meeting of 29 January 1999 was to ask Mr Winzer to pass on to the Acting Director General of Transport any information in his possession that related to corruption or maladministration within Transport.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, CCF (WA) FUNDING FOR SKILLS RECOGNITION

1981. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Can the Minister for Employment and Training advise on what date and how much funding was given to CCF (WA) for Skills Recognition by the BCITF Board under the current BCITF Operational Plan?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the BCITF Operational Plan for 1999/2000 states that the BCITF Board will defer competency based assessment funding until after June 30 2000?
- (3) Can the Minister advise why the CCF (WA) was given this grant before the Industry Special Project Guidelines (BCITF) were distributed to industry on April 17 2000?
- (4) Is the Minister concerned that the BCITF Board has made similar ad hoc one off grants to other entities (such as PPTC, MBA and HIA) before the Industry Special Projects Guidelines were developed?
- (5) Is the Minister concerned that the tendency of the BCITF Board to be slow to produce guidelines in association with its Operational Plan's programs could result in further allegations of bias distribution of the levy to employer groups?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) The BCIT Board approved funding for CCF (WA) to support skills recognition on 27 January 2000. The limit of funding approved was \$13 125. There have been payments to CCF to date.
- (2) Yes, the competency assessment program has been deferred, however, this program was not intended to fund assessments of workers or trainees.
- (3) The industry Special Projects Guidelines have no bearing on the grant to CCF(WA).
- (4) I am satisfied that the Board has made sound funding decisions aimed at achieving worthwhile strategic and training outcomes. I do not accept that the BCIT Board has made 'ad hoc' allocations to any organisation.
- (5) Far from being slow, I am satisfied that the Board has achieved more to improve the BCITF in twelve months than appears to have been achieved in the previous five years. I do not believe the Board has shown bias to employer groups. The Board would be happy to consider proposals from employee groups.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1983. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1984. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
Burswood Park Board

Totalisator Agency Board
WA Greyhound Racing Association
WA Lotteries Commission

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1985. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
(2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
(3) To which town has the agency relocated?
(4) What was the cost of the relocation?
(5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1987. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Attorney General's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
(2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
(3) To which town has the agency relocated?
(4) What was the cost of the relocation?
(5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry of Justice

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Solicitor General

The Solicitor General's Chambers are only based in Perth.

Director of Public Prosecution

- (1) The DPP does not, and never has had, an agency in Carnarvon.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Office of the Information Commissioner

- (1) Nil.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Legal Aid

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Equal Opportunity Commissioner

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Crown Solicitor's Office

- (1)-(5) Nil.

Law Reform Commission

- (1) No.
(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1988. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?

- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I refer the member to my answer given to question on notice 1987.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1993. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Fair Trading's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1994. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Lands' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

LandCorp
(1) No.

- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Department of Land Administration
(1) No.

- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1995. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1996. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Regional Development's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

1998. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Small Business' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2003. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Family and Children's Services' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2004. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Fisheries' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2007. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Primary Industry's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2008. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Seniors:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Seniors' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2009. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Services:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Services' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

State Supply Commission

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2012. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Works' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2015. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Emergency Services' control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The State Emergency Service (SES) of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority relocated a single SES staff position from Carnarvon in October 1997. The SES office facilities remain in Carnarvon for use by the local volunteer SES Unit and Regional staff when visiting or during a larger scale emergency.
- (2) The position of Assistant Regional Manager.
- (3) Geraldton.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) The position of Assistant Regional Manager was relocated to the Regional SES Headquarters in Geraldton for operational reasons, to ensure the provision of more effective and efficient emergency service to all communities in the Mid-West and Gascoyne regions.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2019. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Health's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

HDWA :

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Office of Health Review :

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Healthway :

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2020. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Heritage:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Heritage's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

(1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2022. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Planning's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION OF OFFICES FROM CARNARVON

2023. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Have any Agencies under the Minister for Police's control relocated their offices from Carnarvon to other major town centres since 1993?
- (2) If yes, which agency has relocated?
- (3) To which town has the agency relocated?
- (4) What was the cost of the relocation?
- (5) What was the basis for the decision to relocate?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No, no agencies under the Minister for Police's control have been re-located from Carnarvon.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

MEDIA ARTS GROUP PTY LTD, SUPREME COURT LITIGATION

2029. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to question on notice 1524 of March 21 2000 and the answer provided -

- (1) Has Gordon Inglis for Media Arts Group Pty Ltd communicated with you in anyway with respect to litigation before the Supreme Court?
- (2) If so, when and how?
- (3) Have you responded in any way?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 3 February 2000 by E-mail.
18 March 2000 by E-mail.
11 April 2000 by E-mail.
11 April 2000 by Fax.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) On 12 April my Policy Officer for Racing and Gaming called the Media Arts Group in response to their fax of 11 April 2000. An apology was made for the fact that the three previous E-mails had not been officially received as they had been posted to an address that for technical reasons were not forwarded on to the normal address for correspondence. This has now been rectified. In respect to the issues raised by the Media Arts Group and their legal action against the Western Australian Trotting Association (WATA) it was conveyed that the WATA is not a public authority and therefore is independent of any control by the Minister for Racing and Gaming. As a result of this the Minister would not be providing a formal response as there was legal action underway.
- (5) Not applicable.

"A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA", COST AND DISTRIBUTION

2030. Hon Nick Griffiths to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) Who printed the folder entitled "A Regional Development Policy for Western Australia"?
- (2) What was the total cost of the folder?
- (3) What was the cost of the distribution of the folder?
- (4) To whom was the folder distributed?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Lamb Print printed the folder and policy document "A Regional Development Policy for Western Australia" contained within it. The "Regional Development Policy Budget Highlights" paper also contained in the folder was printed by Touchstone Colour.
- (2) The combined costs for the folder, policy document and budget highlights paper were as follows:
 Printing \$9 939
 Design \$6 100
 TOTAL \$16 039.
- (3) \$2 485.
- (4) The folder has been distributed to the following:
 Ministers
 Members of Parliament
 Individuals and groups who made submissions to the draft policy
 Business Enterprise Centres
 Telecentres
 All Government Agencies
 Local Government Authorities
 Regional Development Commission Board Members
 All regional libraries
 Regional Development Policy Project Reference Group
 Direct requests through the Department of Commerce and Trade and the nine Regional Development Commissions.

COLLEGES OF TAFE, WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS FOR LECTURERS

2035. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer to the WA Department of Training's recent meetings with DOPLAR regarding the progress of Workplace Agreements for TAFE lecturers and ask -

- (1) Has the department sought Crown Law advice on whether or not TAFE colleges are at law constitutional corporations?
- (2) If so, has Crown Law advice been received and will the Minister for Employment and Training table the advice?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If Crown Law advice has not been received, on what basis is the department attempting to implement Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) in TAFE colleges?
- (5) If the advice is that TAFE colleges are not constitutional corporations, will the department continue to attempt to implement AWAs?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Advice has been obtained from the Crown Solicitor's Office. Questions which relate to the legal operations of the Law Officers' of the Crown are by custom, not tabled.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2047. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

For each agency under the Minister for Employment and Training's control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 (d) Abacus - Copyclub?

- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Training and Employment

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Central TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

West Coast College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(b) No.
(c) Yes.
(d) No.

- (2) 59 photocopiers.
- (3) Meterplan Australia Pty. Ltd.
- (4) August 1998.
- (5) \$292 250.
- (6) August 2003.

South East Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

South Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Midland College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

South West Regional College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Great Southern Regional College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Central West Regional College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Eastern Pilbara College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Karratha College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

C.Y. O'Connor College of TAFE

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Kimberley College

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2049. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fair Trading:

For each agency under the Minister for Fair Trading's control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

In respect of the Ministry of Fair Trading and the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board, Settlement Agents Supervisory Board, Finance Brokers Supervisory Board, Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board, Land Valuers Licensing Board, the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee, the Retail Shops Advisory Committee, the Consumer Products Safety Committee and the Home Buyers' Assistance Advisory Committee:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
 (2)-(6) Not applicable.

In respect of the Builders Registration and Painters Registration Boards and the Building Disputes Committee:

Builders Registration Board

- (1) (a) Yes.
 (b)-(d) No.
- (2) 2 Photocopiers and 2 facsimile machines.
- (3) Ricoh.
- (4) Originally 28/4/99, renegotiated 2/5/00.
- (5) \$15,525.
- (6) Originally was to expire 28/4/2004
 Renegotiated to expire 2/5/2005

Painters Registration Board

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
 (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Building Disputes Committee

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
 (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2050. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

For each agency under the Minister for Lands' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

LandCorp

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
 (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Department of Land Administration

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b)-(d) No.
- (2) 3 Photocopiers.
- (3) RICOH.
- (4) 24 August 1995.
- (5) \$143,572.
- (6) 31 January 2004.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2051. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

For each agency under the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2057. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

For each agency under the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2058. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Disability Services:

For each agency under the Minister for Disability Services' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -

- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
- (b) Konica - Fivestar;
- (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
- (d) Abacus - Copyclub?

- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) No.
(c) Yes.
(d) No.
- (2) One (1) photocopier.
- (3) Toshiba.
- (4) 22 September 1996.
- (5) \$8,100.
- (6) 26 September 2001.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2059. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

For each agency under the Minister for Family and Children's Services' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2060. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Fisheries:

For each agency under the Minister for Fisheries' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?

- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2063. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

For each agency under the Minister for Primary Industry's control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2064. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Seniors:

For each agency under the Minister for Seniors' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) No.
(c) Yes.
(d) No.
- (2) 4 Photocopiers, 2 Facsimile Machines.
- (3) Meterplan Australia Pty Ltd.
- (4) Contract Number:
E6T2415126 – 15 December 1996
E6T2416740 – 23 October 1997

- (5) Contract Number:
E6T2415126 - \$51,240.00
E6T2416740 - \$33,280.00
- (6) Contract Number:
E6T2415126 - 15 December 2000
E6T2416740 - 15 October 2001

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2065. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Services:

For each agency under the Minister for Services' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

State Supply Commission

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
(2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2067. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Women's Interests:

For each agency under the Minister for Women's Interests' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
(2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2068. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:

For each agency under the Minister for Works' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
- (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?

- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

Department of Contract and Management Services

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2070. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

For each agency under the Minister for the Arts' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry for Culture & the Arts (including ArtsWA and ScreenWest)

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Library and Information Service of Western Australia

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Western Australian Museum

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2071. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

For each agency under the Minister for Emergency Services' control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?

- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No. FESA has not entered into any volume based agreements to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2076. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Heritage:

For each agency under the Minister for Heritage's control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) (a)-(d) No.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEASES FOR PHOTOCOPIERS AND FACSIMILE MACHINES

2078. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

For each agency under the Minister for Planning's control -

- (1) Does the agency have contracts to lease photocopiers or facsimile machines under any of the following volume based agreements -
 - (a) Ricoh - Blue-chip;
 - (b) Konica - Fivestar;
 - (c) Toshiba - Platinum; or
 - (d) Abacus - Copyclub?
- (2) If yes, how many photocopiers or facsimile machines does the agency have?
- (3) With which organization does it have a contract?
- (4) When did the agency enter into this contract?
- (5) What has been the total cost of each contract to date?
- (6) When is the contract due to expire?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Ministry for Planning [Includes Office of the Minister for Planning (Appeals)]

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b)-(d) No.
- (2) (i) 12 photocopiers
(ii) 10 facsimiles
- (3) (i)-(ii) Ricoh
- (4) (i)-(ii) 1 May 1999
- (5) (i) \$82 680
(ii) \$29 496

(6) (i)-(ii) December 2000.

East Perth Redevelopment Authority
Subiaco Redevelopment Authority
Midland Redevelopment Authority

(1) (a)-(d) No.
(2)-(6) Not applicable.

WINDIMURRA PASTORAL PROPERTY, WATERTABLE

2126. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Minister for Mines:

With reference to the Minister's answer to my question of May 3 regarding the lowering of the watertable on Windimurra pastoral property -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the pastoral property does not in fact use a centrifugal pump, as stated in the Minister's answer, using wind, solar and mono submersible pumps only?
- (2) If no to (1), will the Minister investigate further the impact of water draw down from mining activities upon the Windimurra pastoral property?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that these methods of water extraction by the pastoralist have been used for some considerable time without significant impact upon the aquifer?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) I am advised that a report dated January 2000, prepared for Vanadium Australia Pty Ltd (VAPL) and received by the Department of Minerals and Energy on 25 February 2000, states that a centrifugal pump was used by the pastoralist when there was no wind to drive the windmills. A more recent report dated 23 May 2000 and received by the Department on 1 June 2000 identified that the station owner actually used a mono submersible pump.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) I am aware of the methods typically used by pastoralists to extract water from aquifers, however, the Department has no information on the impact of this particular pastoralist's extraction regime on the aquifer or aquifers concerned. My original point regarding the rate of extraction is still valid as the performance of a mono pump is similar to that of a centrifugal pump and both far exceed that of a windmill pump.

ONLINE WA, ADVERTISING COSTS

2132. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the launch of the Government's On-line WA strategy and that it will be widely advertised, including the use of personalities such as Chris Mainwaring, what is the expected cost of this advertising?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

The On-line WA Single doorway will be promoted through metropolitan and regional television and press, radio and outdoor billboards. The total program for promotion and research is yet to be finalised

BROOME POWER STATION, CONSULTANT FUNDING

2133. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will the Department of Land Administration participate with the Broome Shire Council in funding a consultant to assist the local community in identifying appropriate sites for a future power station for Broome?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is my understanding that the preferred tenderer has accepted the responsibility to fund an independent planning consultant to assist the Consultative Group established by Council.

APPRENTICESHIPS, PERCENTAGE OF COMMENCEMENTS

2135. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Of the cohort who completed their apprenticeship in 1999/2000 - how many commencements were there?
- (2) What percentage does this represent?
- (3) Of the cohort expected to complete their apprenticeship in 2000/01 - how many commencements were there?
- (4) What percentage does this represent?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

As completion data for the 1999/2000 full financial year is not yet available, the figures to date are provided. The following calculations for 2000/01 are made using forecasting methodology.

- (1) So far this year, 2404 apprentices have completed their training in 1999/2000. All of these commenced apprenticeship training.
- (2) 100%.
- (3) Approximately 2870 apprentices are expected to complete their apprenticeship in 2000/01. All of these commenced apprenticeship training.
- (4) 100%.

PASTORAL LEASES, PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

2138. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Which pastoral leases have been purchased by WA State Government departments or agencies since 1993?
- (2) Will the Minister for Lands table a list of -
 - (a) the leases purchased and by which Government Department or agency;
 - (b) the purchase price and the basis upon which this price was determined;
 - (c) the name of the leaseholder from whom the lease was purchased;
 - (d) the purpose for which the lease was purchased by the agency;
 - (e) the basis upon which it was determined each purchase would proceed (ie. what body or agency recommended the purchase or made the decision to purchase); and
 - (f) the current management structure for each lease purchased?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Department of Land Administration

- (1) Burnerbinmah, Cane River, Earacheedy, Goongarrie, Meentheena, Mooloogool, Mt Minnie, Muggon, Pimbee, Waldburg, Waterbank and portions of Barnong, Bidgemia, Dalgety Downs, Jimba Jimba, Lyons River, Mardathunna, Middalya, Mt Phillip, Nanutarra and Williambury Stations.
- (2)

Station	Department	Purchase Price	Previous Lessee
Barnong (ptn)	CALM	In exchange for fencing	Barnong Pty Ltd
Bidgemia (ptn)	CALM	\$19,869	Laver Pty Ltd
Burnerbinmah	CALM	\$250,000	DE & RL Anderson
Cane River	CALM	\$300,000	CA O'Donoghue (nee Bates)
Dalgety Downs (ptn)	CALM	\$226,368	GJ & HE Williams
Earacheedy	CALM	\$260,000	BJ & RA Quartermaine & Maitland Holdings Pty Ltd
Goongarrie	CALM	\$200,000	LJ, JM, LJ (Jnr), TA & GB J Johnson
Jimba Jimba (ptn)	CALM	\$16,908	GMH & VF Baston
Lyons River (ptn)	CALM	\$33,039	Tallangatta Pty Ltd
Mardathuna (ptn)	CALM	\$95,454	Mardathuna Holdings Pty Ltd
Meentheena	CALM & Main Roads WA	\$665,000	AN & LA Glenn
Middalya (ptn)	CALM	\$40,746	Middalya Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd
Mooloogool	CALM	\$425,000	Noel Pomery
Mt Minnie	CALM	\$270,000	KC & PM Sweetman
Mt Phillip (ptn)	CALM	\$297,109.80	ND, DL, GH & LF Robinson
Muggon	CALM	\$640,000	Obex Pty Ltd
Nanutarra (ptn)	CALM	\$100,000	Teklite Pty Ltd
Pimbee	CALM	\$575,000	KL Miles
Waldburg	CALM	\$370,000	CT Woods
Waterbank	Minister for Lands	\$1,943,000	Boonaroo Pty Ltd
Williambury (ptn)	CALM	\$63,183	Williambury Station (WA) Pty Ltd & Moogooree Pty Ltd
- (b) The purchase prices are shown in the above schedule. In respect to the purchases by CALM the purchase price was determined on a negotiated basis with the vendor following valuation advice provided by the Valuer General. The purchase price for Meentheena Station by Main Roads WA and CALM was on a negotiated basis and included relocation costs. The purchase price for Waterbank Station was struck by an independent arbiter.
- (c) The above schedule shows the name of the former holder of the pastoral leases.
- (d) The properties purchased by CALM were for the enhancement of the conservation estate and sandalwood management. Meentheena Station was purchased by Main Roads WA and CALM to facilitate the construction

of the Rippon Hills Road and for conservation purposes. Waterbank Station was purchased for conservation purposes and to facilitate the strategic long term planning of the Broome Townsite.

- (e) The Hon Minister for the Environment approved the purchases by CALM. The Ministers for Transport and the Environment approved the purchase of Meentheena Station. State Cabinet approved the purchase of Waterbank Station.
- (f) The properties purchased by CALM have been and in some cases are being destocked and managed by CALM. Waterbank Station has been destocked and plant and equipment has been disposed of and the property is managed by DOLA.

WIRRIMANU COMMUNITY, THE KIMBERLEY, RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2143. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) What current arrangements does the State Emergency Services have with the Wirrimanu Community (Balgo) in the Kimberley that will enable a risk management plan to be implemented in the face of any emergency?
- (2) If none, when will arrangements be put in place?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) To date there is no formal Emergency Risk Management Plan for the Wirrimanu Community. However, the State Emergency Service (SES) endeavours to visit the community twice a year to improve communication, raise awareness, educate and provide information on risks to the community. Where there is clearly a risk of a potential natural disaster there is an existing process where the SES disseminates information to communities to enable them to prepare. Where further action is required a response plan is developed in consultation with the community to address their immediate needs.
- (2) The SES always endeavours to meet community needs and foster relationships. On 26th June 2000 the SES will begin working with the Wirrimanu Community to apply the emergency risk management process. This process will involve the participation of community members and will produce a range of measures that contribute to the well being of the community and its environment. Included in the process are steps to identify, analyse, evaluate and treat risks in the community. Key to the success of the process is a strong emphasis on communication and consultation and effective local solutions. The plan will be documented and once completed a process of monitoring and review will be undertaken.

CYCLONE ROSITA, ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

2150. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Water Resources:

In reference to damage to pastoral leases and agricultural endeavours affected by the passage of Cyclone Rosita across the Kimberley coast south of Broome -

- (1) What assistance programs are available to affected parties through the Office of Water Regulation to assist them with the re-equipping of bores and other watering points and facilities on pastoral or farming operations?
- (2) What assistance will be made available through the Minister for Water Resources' agency to either Thangoo Station or other affected operators in this area?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) None, to date the Government has not given consideration to assisting parties affected by Cyclone Rosita.
- (2) No assistance is planned at this time.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION, TABLING OF OFFER TO UPGRADE KALGOORLIE LINE

1242. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can the minister explain why he refused to table the offer received by the Australian Rail Track Corporation to lease and upgrade the Kalgoorlie line when a request was made on 23 September 1999 in this House, yet he sent that same document to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy just a few weeks later?
- (2) How will the release of this document to the Parliament undermine the Australian Rail Track Corporation bid, but the release to the two chambers did not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(2) The release of that document is one of the issues that is up for discussion with those people. If I were to table that

document I would have to get their compliance. I did not see any value in releasing that document, as it did not relate to a tender process; it was just a document that had been put forward during a flurry of arrangements taking place at that time. I was concerned at the reasons for that document coming forward. As the Leader of the Opposition would be well and truly aware I became aware of this after it was made obvious to other people. There are a host of reasons I am not keen to table the document.

JOINT TIDAL POWER STUDY

1243. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Is the State Government prepared to participate in the joint tidal power study proposed by the Prime Minister?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

PYRTON PRISON, MARKS INQUIRY

1244. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is it the minister's intention to proceed with Pyrtion prison irrespective of the result of the inquiry of Mr Peter Marks pursuant to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Heritage Protection Act 1984 and any subsequent decision of the federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage?
- (2) Has the Government of Western Australia made any representations to the Marks inquiry?
- (3) If so, what was the nature and purpose of those representations?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) I find the first question somewhat puzzling. It all depends on the result of the inquiry. As the member knows the federal minister has certain powers, so it is dependent upon what orders the federal minister makes.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: You have said it is going ahead anyway.

Hon PETER FOSS: It is going ahead because nobody has made an order and until such time as somebody makes an order, one does not need to comply. Hon Nick Griffiths is talking about orders that have not even been made.

One of the interesting aspects of this whole process is that I have heard a lot of criticism from Labor about the intent to put a prison at Pyrtion, but I have never heard where it thinks the prison should go. I am sure many other people in the metropolitan area would love to know where the Labor Party thinks the prison should go if not at Pyrtion. I am fascinated with that, because people in many electorates would be interested to hear from the Labor Party as to where it thinks the women's minimum security prison should go. I am sure it would cause considerable interest in electorates to find out Labor's views, because we have not heard them yet. No doubt that will be announced by Mr McGinty.

- (2)-(3) The Government has made a representation. We were asked to make a representation. The nature of that representation was to support the placing of a women's minimum security prison at Pyrtion. I would have thought that was fairly obvious.

WHITE, MS LUCY, ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

1245. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Attorney General:

- (1) On what date and on what grounds did the Guardianship and Administration Board assume control of the estate of Lucy White of 60/610 Welshpool Road, Wattlegrove?
- (2) If Lucy White was deemed to be mentally incapable of managing her affairs, which qualified person made this decision?
- (3) Was a review of this decision made by the board and, if so, was this an external review?
- (4) Did Ms White have legal representation at the board's hearings?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The Guardianship and Administration Board carries out its functions pursuant to the Guardianship and Administration Act. It is not usual to answer questions regarding judicial proceedings as they do not come within the responsibility of the minister. The judiciary is independent of the minister.
- (2) There is also concern about answering this question, because of strict confidentiality clauses within the Act. The policy of the Act plainly is to protect the confidentiality and best interests of parties before the board.
- (3)-(4) The executive officer of the Guardianship and Administration Board may be contacted at any time to provide advice on practices and procedures of the board.

POLICE RANGERS, MANDURAH

1246. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is government funding of the police rangers in Mandurah through the Western Australian Federation of Police and Citizens Youth Clubs about to cease?
- (2) Has the PCYC federation removed a bus from Mandurah that was funded by the Lotteries Commission and local businesses for the purposes of youth work in the Mandurah-Pinjarra area?
- (3) Has the PCYC removed all equipment from the Billy Dower Youth A'Peel Centre?
- (4) Will the Government ensure that funding support is maintained for the Mandurah and Pinjarra rangers?
- (5) If yes, will this include financial support, a bus and sporting equipment?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(5) Providing the information in the time required is not possible, and I request that the member place the question on notice.

AGRICULTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA, REPORT ON FARM FINANCIAL HEALTH

1247. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

I refer to the rapid multi-perspective appraisal undertaken by Agriculture Western Australia officers in April 2000.

- (1) Has the minister received a report from AgWest on the results of this appraisal?
- (2) Has the report, any part of it, or analysis of it been made available to the media under the title "An Assessment of Farm Financial Health in the South, Central and Northern Agricultural Regions of Western Australia April 2000"?
- (3) When will this information be tabled in Parliament?
- (4) Will any information gathered in this report be used in the formulation of government policies and programs?
- (5) Will the minister table a complete copy of this report and if not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3),(5) I am happy to table a copy for the benefit of the member.
- (4) The way in which Agriculture Western Australia proposes to use this information to aid service delivery is contained in the tabled report.

[See paper No 1069.]

RAILWAYS, NORTHERN EXTENSION TO CLARKSON

1248. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the route for the proposed northern rail line extension to Clarkson been finalised?
- (2) When was this route finalised?
- (3) Does the department own the land necessary for the rail reserve and, if not, how much land does it need to purchase?
- (4) As the rail extension was promised in 1996 why has it taken the department so long to act on obtaining the land necessary for the rail reserve?
- (5) When will the plans for the rail line be released to the public.

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) November 1999.
- (3) No. A total of 204 hectares must be purchased for the transportation corridor - the railway and the Mitchell Freeway - between Burns Beach Road and Lukin Drive.
- (4) Prior to obtaining the land it has been necessary to finalise the railway route and to prepare amendments to the

metropolitan region scheme. The Clarkson extension could not be considered in isolation from the overall suburban rail network. In particular, it was identified as an integral part of the services to the proposed south west metropolitan railway.

Preparation of the master plan for the south west metropolitan railway commenced in 1997 and was completed in March 1999. Preparation of the master plan for the northern suburbs transit service Clarkson extension followed and has been completed. Enabling legislation for construction of the railway received royal assent in December 1999.

A significant change arising out of the northern suburbs master plan, compared with previous planning, was to relocate the railway back into the future Mitchell Freeway median, and to relocate the proposed railway car depot further north. These options will affect land requirements.

Preparation of the metropolitan region scheme amendment commenced in May 1997. After taking into account the environmental issues and ensuing reviews, and the route as finalised by the NSTS Clarkson extension master plan, this amendment is nearly complete and will be presented to Parliament for approval in the spring sitting. Acquisition of the plan can then proceed.

- (5) The master plan to extend the railway to Clarkson will be released tomorrow.

POLICE SERVICE, VEHICLES

1249. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

In view of the fact that the Police Service has 89 cars fewer this year than last year and is paying \$1.603m more for them, I ask -

- (1) What are the prices of leasing V8, V6 supercharged, V6 and four-cylinder cars?
- (2) How many V8 cars are to be replaced, from which sections of the Police Service and with what will they be replaced?
- (4) What are the anticipated savings from these changes?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Lease rates are determined by Matrix and vary between makes and models, dependent on accessories ordered from the factory and lease term contracts.
- (2) All 237 V8 vehicles within the Police Service are to be replaced as lease contracts expire. V8 vehicles are located in numerous sections and will be replaced with six-cylinder vehicles.
- (3) As the replacement of V8 vehicles is planned for when the current contracts expire, any savings will be dependent on varying factors, including residual values at the time of replacement, and, as such, are not quantifiable at this time.

ROAD, NEWLY CONSTRUCTED

1250. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

With reference to the newly constructed road at map references S21.58.33 E115.00.55 running between S22.02.01 E115.01.17 and S22.06.34 E115.02.17, at a width of up to 20 metres, at S22.06.34 E115.02.17 the road extends east and west from a T-junction as far as the eye can see.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the construction of this road?
- (2) Is the minister's department aware of the construction of this road?
- (3) Has the Environmental Protection Authority been notified of the construction of this road?
- (4) If no to (3), will the EPA establish the identity of the proponents and assess this road for its environmental impact, particularly as the road is up to 20 metres in width?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

You may not be surprised, Mr President, that the answer is that it is not possible to provide the information in the time required and I request that the member place the question on notice.

WESTRAIL, JARRAH CONTRACTS

1251. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has Westrail awarded any contracts for harvesting jarrah on Westrail reserves since 1 July 1999?

- (2) If yes -
 - (a) how many contracts have been awarded;
 - (b) to whom were the contracts awarded; and
 - (c) what volume has been harvested since 1 July 1999?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE, ALBANY

1252. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the changed administration of the home and community care home-base maintenance scheme in Albany.

- (1) Was the funding for the program reduced when the project was transferred to the new administration, and what changes were made to the eligibility criteria?
- (2) Did the department authorise a review of the program's client base with a view to reducing the number of people eligible for assistance?
- (3) How many people have been removed from the scheme since its changed administration?
- (4) Are the eligibility criteria for this program different from those for other HACC programs, such as those run by Silver Chain in Albany?
- (5) If yes, what is the difference, and what is the reason for the difference?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) No. The department does not authorise such reviews. However, all home and community care organisations, in meeting the national service standards and the national program guidelines, must regularly assess clients against the relative need of other clients waiting to receive a service.
- (3) Client-based information is not kept by the department; only service-type information is kept by the department.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

VON BRANDENSTEIN, DR KARL, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND LINGUISTIC MATERIAL

1253. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General:

- (1) Will the Attorney General make representations to the Public Trustee in support of the efforts of the Battye Library to have retained in Western Australia the collection of linguistic and photographic material of Dr Karl von Brandenstein that came from the north of the State in the 1950s and 1960s?
- (2) What opportunity is open to interested parties to secure a decision from the Public Trustee that will ensure that this significant material is retained in Western Australia?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(2) By virtue of section 47(3) of the Public Trustee Act and Section 113(1) of the Guardianship and Administration Act, the Public Trustee is restricted to answering questions relating to the details of individual estates.

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY, PRINTING TENDER

1254. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Further to question without notice 880 of 2000, what is the total amount the Rottneest Island Authority paid to each of the companies listed in question (3) in the 1999-2000 financial year?
- (2) Were the companies that put in a conforming bid for the tender advised that they had not been successful; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Were the companies that put in a conforming bid for the tender advised why the tender was not filled; and, if not, why not?

- (4) In what way will the tender expected to be called by the Rottnest Island Authority differ from the tender previously called for the printing work?
- (5) Did any officer of the Rottnest Island Authority confer or communicate in any way with existing printing companies or their agents or officers about the tender not being filled?
- (6) If so, who was involved and what was the nature of their involvement?
- (7) Did the Rottnest Island Authority or any of its officers or agents enter into any agreements, arrangements or understandings, tacit or otherwise, to the effect that the tender would not be filled?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The information requested is being extracted from the agency's records and will be provided as soon as possible.
- (2)-(3) No, the Rottnest Island Authority inadvertently neglected to formally advise tenderers of its intention not to proceed with the awarding of the tender and the reasons for that decision. Those tenderers who sought information were verbally advised.
- (4) The tender expected to be called by the Rottnest Island Authority will better identify and quantify the agency's full range of printing needs.
- (5)-(7) With due regard to the response to questions (2) and (3), I am advised that, to best of the agency's senior management's knowledge, no officer of the Rottnest Island Authority has communicated with or entered into any agreement, arrangements or understandings, as described, with the existing print providers for the Rottnest Island Authority.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE, SAFEGUARDS POLICY

1255. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the home and community care safeguards policy and applications by service providers for safety-net funding.

- (1) How many agencies, if any, have applied for safety-net funding?
- (2) What steps were taken by the Health Department to educate and inform service providers about applying for safety-net funding?
- (3) Is compensation available to service providers via safety-net funding for additional administrative costs incurred for the implementation of the safeguards policy?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Is any form of compensation available to service providers for additional costs incurred with respect to the implementation of the safeguards policy?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) One agency has applied for safety-net funding.
- (2) All agencies were provided with 'Safety Net Guidelines' which included a simple explanation of the purpose of safety-net arrangements, an explanation of how each baseline fee was calculated, a description of the process of how to apply for safety-net arrangements and an example of the completed fee income form.
- (3) No.
- (4) Funding was made available prior to the implementation of the safeguard policy for access to \$140 000 to assist agencies with the implementation of the policy.
- (5) No.

LAND AUCTION, MT CLAREMONT

1256. Hon G.T. GIFFARD to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the sale by public auction of land in Fortview Road, Mt Claremont, to be held on 24 June and ask -

- (1) Through what process was the sale agent chosen and appointed?
- (2) Were other agents given the opportunity to tender to act as agent for the sale of the land?
- (3) If so, how and when was that opportunity given?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Appointment made as extension of previous competitive tendering process for appointment of selling agents for St Johns Wood, Mt Claremont.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Competitive tendering process was completed in July 1996. Agents were assessed and appointment of Satterley Real Estate made. The performance of the agent was reviewed in 1998 and again in 1999 coinciding with the release of the last two stages at Mt Claremont.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, CONTRACT

1257. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Has the statewide telecommunications enhancement program contract with Telstra been finalised and signed?
- (2) If not, why not, and when does the Minister for Commerce and Trade anticipate that this contract will be finalised and signed?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Signing is planned for 27 June 2000. The contract has only recently been finalised following deliberations by Telstra and the consequential negotiations with the Western Australian Government.

GRAYLANDS HOSPITAL, DEATHS AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS

1258. Hon NORM KELLY to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Health:

I ask the eternal general -

- (1) How many deaths have occurred at Graylands Hospital during each of the past five years?
- (2) How many deaths have occurred in other mental health facilities during each of the past five years?
- (3) How many reported sexual assaults have occurred against patients of Graylands Hospital over each of the past five years?
- (4) How many reported sexual assaults have occurred in other mental health facilities over each of the past five years?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for the faith he has exhibited in me and hope that it proves to be correct!

Hon Tom Stephens: Did he say infernal?

Hon PETER FOSS: No, eternal. I thank the member for some notice of this question and ask that, due to the time it will take to gather this information from hospitals with mental health facilities across the State, it be placed on notice.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, BLUE GUM PLANTATIONS

1259. Hon CHRISTINE SHARP to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Forest Products:

Can the minister please table a map containing the location of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's current sharefarming agreement blue gum plantations?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The data set for the 1999 plantings is currently being validated for the production of CALM's annual report and is anticipated to be completed by 30 June. A copy of the map will be provided to the member as soon as the validation process is completed.

SKIPPERS AVIATION PTY LTD, BROOME-DERBY AIR SERVICE

1260. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the meeting last week between the Department of Transport, the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley and Skippers Aviation Pty Ltd to discuss the performance of the Broome to Derby air service and ask -

- (1) What ideas were discussed at that meeting?
- (2) When will a final decision be made on the steps that will be taken?

- (3) What commitment, including financial, has the department given to boost the service?
- (4) What steps will the minister take to ensure that a Broome-Derby air service continues beyond 30 June this year?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Major issues discussed at the meeting were the performance of the air service and factors to increase loadings and revenue while reducing costs.
- (2) A follow-up teleconference will be held on 7 July with all parties involved, after which I will be advised of the agreed measures. There is a shared sense of urgency on this matter with all parties.
- (3) Transport has undertaken a number of negotiations with the airline company involved and other organisations to give this service every opportunity for success. Transport will continue to provide support for the service, including the allocation of \$35 000 for an operating subsidy in 2000-01.
- (4) I am committed to ensuring that the agreed package of measures will be implemented quickly and this will ensure that the service continues beyond 30 June this year.

STATE FINANCE, UNFUNDED SUPERANNUATION LIABILITIES

1261. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

With respect to the figures for unfunded superannuation liabilities set out on page 19 of the *2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, will the Attorney General provide a table setting out how the liabilities are apportioned between the pension scheme, Gold State Super and West State Super?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Before providing the answer to this question, I advise the House that the answer provided to Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich in question without notice 1167 overlooked the fact that the state budget papers also included liabilities under the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act and the Parliamentary Superannuation Act. The general government unfunded superannuation liabilities reported in the *2000-01 Economic and Fiscal Outlook* include liabilities under the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act and the Parliamentary Superannuation Act. These liabilities are included in the table that I now seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

	1999 \$m	2000 \$m	2001 \$m	2002 \$m	2003 \$m	2004 \$m
Pension Scheme	2 351	2 377	2 356	2 296	2 262	2 213
GoldState Super	1 846	1 925	1 996	2 084	2 127	2 158
WestState Super	564	553	544	536	526	518
Judges Super	97	103	106	109	112	115
Parliamentary Super	87	90	93	96	99	102
TOTAL	4 945	5 048	5 095	5 121	5 126	5 106

ELECTRICITY GENERATION, WEST KIMBERLEY

1262. Hon TOM HELM to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

- (1) What role is the Government taking in the site selection process for the new electricity generating facilities in the West Kimberley region?
- (2) Specifically, on what basis is Western Power working with Energy Equity Corporation in visits to West Kimberley townships and communities to discuss power generation sites?
- (3) Will the minister ensure that Tidal Energy Australia has access to Western Power's powerhouses to assess what capital works will be necessary to upgrade those powerhouses to meet the needs of the communities?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Government and Western Power are jointly facilitating the identification of potential power generation sites for the preferred bidder.
- (2) Western Power is working with Energy Equity Corporation as the preferred bidder to identify potential power generation sites that meet Energy Equity's needs for power generation and meet Western Power's needs for network connection, and to ensure there is proper consultation with key stakeholders and the community's expectations are understood.

- (3) An offer of access to Western Power's powerhouses was made to bidders during the West Kimberley power procurement bidding process. Tidal Energy Australia has since been informed that if it is successful in becoming the preferred bidder, it will again be given the opportunity to access the powerhouses, if necessary.
- (4) Not applicable.

RALLY AUSTRALIA, CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

1263. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to government claims that Rally Australia is safe in Western Australia in 2001.

- (1) What additional resources or incentives has the Government been able to make available to the organisers to secure the event for 2001?
- (2) What are the contractual arrangements with regard to the television broadcasting rights to the 2001 event? Specifically, is there a prospect that these television broadcasting rights will be used to move the event from Western Australia in 2001?
- (3) Can the minister guarantee that Rally Australia will remain in Perth in 2001 in light of the fact that the television broadcasting rights are held by Mr David Richards of International Sports World Communications and may be movable?

Hon Peter Foss: Do you support its staying here?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Absolutely, and I want to make sure the minister has all the necessary resources. In answer to your question -

The PRESIDENT: Order, Leader of the Opposition! The Leader of the Opposition was a minister, and he had the opportunity to answer; and when he is a minister again he will, no doubt, again have the opportunity to answer. However, in the meantime, the Minister for Tourism.

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(3) The sadness of this issue is that the Opposition and our local newspaper appear to be taking a very anti-Western Australian position. It is sad that neither of them -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have a number of members who want to ask a second question. I would like to be able to afford those members the opportunity. Let the Minister for Tourism complete his answer so that I can continue with the list.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is sad that the newspaper chose to run a headline which said "Rally Goes" when in fact there was no evidence of that at all. It is also sad that the opposition spokesman on tourism took a similar approach and was highly critical of a decision that had not even been made.

Hon Peter Foss: He was gleeful.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, he was gleeful. He could not help himself last week. He spent all last week criticising the Government's tourism efforts, got it all wrong and got himself an editorial in *The West Australian* for once.

Hon Tom Stephens: You lost the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: You have lost the plot.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon N.F. MOORE: In respect to the rally, the situation is very simple. The rally is owned by the international motorsport organisation, the Federation Internationale de L'automobile.

Hon E.R.J. Dermer: Have you measured the number of metres?

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is absolutely pathetic. Do the members of the Opposition want an answer? The relationship between the international body and the event is that the international body allocates the event to the national body which is responsible for motorsport in each country. The Western Australian Government has a contract which was entered into in 1987 with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, which is the national body. The contract is confidential as are many of the contracts entered into in the 1980s. What is in it cannot be revealed other than that which I have indicated to the media and anybody who is interested: Essentially, in the event that a rally is to be held in Australia, it will be held in Perth.

Hon Ken Travers: Another good Labor initiative.

Hon N.F. MOORE: In fact it has worked very well so far.

Hon Tom Stephens: Everything you touch turns to mud.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Leader of the Opposition continues to ignore all the positives that have happened in the past seven years. He fails to recognise what has happened with events in this State.

The rally is safe in Western Australia for as long as the rules that apply to it remain in place and are not changed. The rules are set by the FIA which is responsible to nobody - a bit like the International Olympic Committee - and it makes its own decisions about how it operates. If it changes the rules and says that from now on the FIA will not take any notice of national motorsport bodies on the allocation of a rally, it may be that somebody else will get it. While the rule applies and the protocol is in place that the FIA always allocates the rally on the basis of the recommendation of the local body, we will have the event for many years to come. If, however, a decision is made to go down a different path - I have no control over what the FIA might or might not do - that particular relationship may be breached.

The question was raised today about the television rights. It is correct with regard to the Formula One rally - the Grand Prix - that the owner of the television rights decides where the Grand Prix will be held. That is different from the relationship that exists with rallies. In the event that somebody changes the rules so the determination of where a rally will be located is decided on the same basis as the Formula One Grand Prix, it may be that the person who holds the television rights may decide where the rally is held. That is not the case at present. We have been assured by the FIA and CAMS and Mr Richards has said that, as far as he is concerned, the processes which are in place now will remain in place. I cannot guarantee that will be the case forever. When the Leader of the Opposition said in his preamble that I had said that the rally is safe for Western Australia, I said that, subject to the rules remaining in place, as they are now, it is safe for Western Australia well into the future. However, in the event that somebody pays a lot of money to somebody else to change the way in which the FIA operates, there is little I can do.

As far as allocating government resources is concerned, there has never been an issue about how much the Government has put into the rally. We have always put in the required number of dollars to run the rally properly and effectively.

Hon Tom Stephens: Did your officers in London commit themselves to any more effort?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The officers went to London to talk to the president of the FIA, Mr Richards, and to talk to the organisers of the FIA rally program to ensure that the processes that have been in place for the past 12 years are still in place now. That assurance was provided to us and I can only assume that those assurances will hold up in the long term. We have never been asked to put in any more resources by way of funds. The same applied with the Heineken golf event. Had we been given a chance to bid further for that, we would have offered more money. However, that was never the issue; it was just decided to shift it. It is a pity that the Labor Party in Victoria is following a similar path as its predecessor in trying to steal events from other parts of Australia. To the extent that I am able, and given the rules which are presently in place for the allocation of a site for the rally, I am very confident it will stay in Western Australia for some time to come.
