

I think members will readily see the reason for this. We have a constituted authority; and the re-enactment of section 10 I think meets the circumstances obtaining today, particularly in far-flung places where no other cemetery boards or authority; and the re-enactment of section 39 is a very necessary one because of the difficulties associated with the burials of bodies where, as the matter now stands, no authority or person claims the responsibility. I think this will clarify that situation and I have no objection whatever to the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 17th September, 1964

CONTENTS

BILLS—	Page
Administration Act Amendment Bill— Receipt; 1r.	1021
Bush Fires Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1041
Cancer Council of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1020
Country Areas Water Supply Act Amend- ment Bill—2r.	1038
Country Towns Sewerage Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1032
Criminal Code Amendment Bill— Receipt; 1r.	1021
Education Act Amendment Bill— Intro.; 1r.	1019
Parks and Reserves Act Amendment Bill— 2r.	1042
Prisons Acts Amendment Bill— 2r.	1037
Com.	1040
Report	1041
Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Amendment Bill— 2r.	1020
Com.; Report	1021

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1964-65—

Message: Appropriation—	
Com.	1021

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Beach Cottages and Caravan Park at Ger- aldton: Removal from West End Beach to Page's Beach	1017
Coal— Increase in State Electricity Commis- sion Orders	1013
Loans to Mining Companies	1013
Drainage in Joondana District: Reason for Increase in Rates	1016
Education— Alma Street School, Fremantle: Architect and Contractor for Basket- ball Area	1014
Callista School: Official Opening	1016
School Children: Early Arrival at Schools	1017
Electricity Supplies: Steel and Wooden Poles, and Underground Service	1014
Fishing—Undersized Crayfish: Seizure of 21 bags by Fisheries Inspector Munro	1015
Floodwaters: Control in Vicinity of "Plug"	1015
Health—Shortage of Dentists: Effect on Community and Action to be Taken	1013
Housing—Accommodation for Women Pensioners: Applicants for "South- lea" and "Westlea"	1013
Land—Christine Street, Hazelmere: Sale of Lot 120	1016
Police Station at Kalgoorlie: Commence- ment of New Building	1013
Railways Department: Reprinting of Books of Instruction	1016
Road, Albany-Denmark: Replanning, Re- routing, and Alignment	1015
Water-rating Plan For Country: Rebates and Price	1014

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—

Copper Sulphate and Ore: Production and Price	1018
Decorum of the House— Speaker's Entrance and Departure: } Form of Recognition } 1018 Use of Term "Honourable" in Gov- } ernor's Speech } 1019	
Drainage in Joondana District: Site of Pumping Station	1018
Health—Hospital Patients: Care and Con- trol of Valuables	1017
Junior Certificate Examination: Students Entitled to Sit	1019
Power Lines in Canning Electorate: Rep- resentations to Railways Department	1017
Road Truncation in Dangin: Preserva- tion of Ornamental Trees	1018
Swan River Reclamation: Acreage Affected by Kwinana Freeway Project	1018

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

COAL*Increase in State Electricity Commission Orders*

2. Mr. H. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) When does the State Electricity Commission expect an increase in its coal orders and what does it anticipate the increase will be?
- (2) Will any such increase be applicable to both coalmining companies operating on the Collie coalfield?

Loans to Mining Companies

- (3) What are the amounts advanced by way of loans to the Griffin Coal Mining Company and the Western Collieries Ltd. as at the 30th June for each of the following years:—
1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) This depends on many factors which are impossible to estimate; these include the consumers' demand for electricity, the price of coal, and the railways' requirements of coal at the time.
 - (2) This depends on the prices of coal offered by the companies if and when more coal is required.
 - (3)—
- | | Griffin Coal
Mining Co. Ltd. | Western
Collieries Ltd. |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1959 | 280,311 | 335,500 |
| 1960 | 252,459 | 326,000 |
| 1961 | 249,280 | 318,975 |
| 1962 | 235,421 | 314,625 |
| 1963 | 303,386 | 267,750 |
| 1964 | 259,870 | 228,375 |

ACCOMMODATION FOR WOMEN PENSIONERS*Applicants for "Southlea" and "Westlea"*

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) What is the number of applicants (women pensioners) awaiting accommodation at "Southlea" and "Westlea"?
 - (2) What proposals are there for further accommodation of this type?
 - (3) When will such further accommodation be available for occupancy?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 420 eligible applicants.
- (2) and (3) A proposal for further accommodation for women pensioners is at present under consideration and it is anticipated that an announcement will be made shortly.

POLICE STATION AT KALGOORLIE*Commencement of New Building*

4. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

Is he now in a position to state when work can reasonably be expected to commence on the building of the new police station in Kalgoorlie?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

As it has not yet been possible to provide finance for this project, it cannot be stated when work will commence.

SHORTAGE OF DENTISTS*Effect on Community and Action to be Taken*

5. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:
 - (1) Is he aware of the comment in *The West Australian*, of the 15th September, to the effect that owing to a shortage of 12 dentists the Dental Hospital cannot cope with "new" patients, and those who have not within 12 months received Dental Hospital treatment?
 - (2) As an increase in charges is mooted and recommended to dentists in private practice, is it not reasonable to assume that such increase in economic hardship to the community, the family man in particular, will cause a greater demand on the Dental Hospital?
 - (3) Since long delays in necessary treatment impairs oral and general health, what emergent action does he intend to ensure—
 - (a) early dental treatment of all in need of same;
 - (b) and in so doing ensure that there is no deterioration in the general health of Western Australian citizens?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It could be argued that an increase in private dentists' fees could create further demands on the hospital's services, but the major impact is that concerned with our rapidly increasing population.
- (3) (a) and (b) Every effort has been made and is continuing to be made to recruit dentists. It should be appreciated that the shortage of dentists is world wide and other States in the Commonwealth are experiencing similar difficulties.

However, current advertising which is taking place in the *British Dental Journal*, the *Canadian Dental Journal*, and the *New Zealand Dental Journal* and the *Australian Dental Journal* circulating throughout Australia, has resulted in inquiries from 15-20 dentists already and we are hopeful of attracting some to this State.

The fact that local authorities are taking advantage of the scheme for designing and equipping dental surgeries in areas where a resident dentist can be supported is being advertised overseas and is also encouraging inquiries. This scheme is subsidised by the Government. The expansion of clinical facilities now provided for student teaching at the hospital will allow for an increase of graduates from 10 a year to 20 a year, and here again the dental bursary scheme is producing beneficial results.

Of course, honourable members should properly appreciate that one alleviating factor could be the fluoridating of our water supplies.

I have an addendum to the answer and this is for the information of the honourable member and others. It is as follows:—

There is no limitation on emergency treatment or treatments other than fillings. In fact there is no limit on the number of patients who can be accepted for fillings at the new Goderich Street Hospital, provided that they are suitable for student requirements and can attend at times that suit the Dental School and meet the eligibility test.

Mr. Toms: Do you think the registration of dental mechanics would help?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No.

ALMA STREET SCHOOL, FREMANTLE

*Architect and Contractor for
Basketball Area*

6. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

Will he make known to the House—

- (a) the name of the architect;
- (b) the name of the contractor engaged to plan and install the basketball area at Alma Street State School, Fremantle?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) Brand Ferguson and Solarski.
- (b) Consolidated Constructions.

WATER-RATING PLAN FOR COUNTRY

Rebates and Price

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Under the new water rating plan for the country what categories of consumers will be allowed rebate water for rates paid?
- (2) If rebate water is allowed, at what price per thousand gallons will it be calculated?
- (3) At what quantity of water consumption will domestic consumers in the country become liable for a higher total charge for water under the new system compared with the old?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) This will depend on the quantity of water used and the valuation of the property.

It is proposed that water rates will be 1s. 6d. in the pound on annual rental values in lieu of 3s. at present in the majority of country towns. Water will be supplied at 2s. per 1,000 gallons for the first 60,000 gallons and increased prices for further consumption above this figure.

An example is a consumer rated on property of an annual rental valuation of £100, who at present is charged £15 for rates and receives 75,000 gallons allowance. Under the proposed system he will pay £7 10s. rates and £7 17s. 6d. for water if he uses 75,000 gallons. Any consumption less than 75,000 gallons will reduce his total payment.

Equation would be reached on an annual rental value of £80.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

*Steel and Wooden Poles, and
Underground Service*

8. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Which areas in the City of Perth have steel poles, supplied and erected by the State Electricity Commission, and were they erected for aesthetic reasons?
- (2) Which metropolitan areas, other than those in (1), have steel poles supplied and erected by the State Electricity Commission, and were these erected for aesthetic reasons?

- (3) Which, if any, of the areas in (1) and (2) are supplied with underground services?
- (4) What would be the average cost of supplying and erecting—
 - (a) one steel pole;
 - (b) one wooden pole?
- (5) What is the cost of—
 - (a) one steel pole;
 - (b) one wooden pole suitable for normal street services?
- (6) Are there any particular difficulties involved in the erection and staying of steel poles?
- (7) Are steel poles supplied by local manufacturers or are they imported?
- (8) Providing necessary precautions are taken (e.g., painting, coating, etc.), what is the estimated life of—
 - (a) steel poles;
 - (b) wooden poles?
- (9) Under what circumstances and density of consumption are State Electricity Commission services placed underground?
- (10) What is the price per 20 chain for supplying service mains—
 - (a) underground;
 - (b) on wooden poles;
 - (c) on steel poles?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Nil. A few remain taken over from the City of Perth, probably erected for strength reasons.
- (2) Nil. Some steel poles have been taken over from abandoned trolley bus routes where they were undoubtedly erected for strength purposes.
- (3) (1) Perth City central blocks.
(2) Nil.
- (4) (a) Approximately £90.
(b) Approximately £10.
- (5) (a) Approximately £80.
(b) Approximately £5.
- (6) No difficulties except to erect steel poles safely requires many expensive precautions.
- (7) Imported.
- (8) With proper maintenance approximately the same life, 25 years. Maintenance of steel poles is much higher.
- (9) When loading density is similar to that in the central blocks of the City of Perth.
- (10) (a) £1,000.
(b) £300.
(c) £1,100.

Assuming low tension where high tension is involved, underground is much more expensive.

FLOODWATERS

Control in Vicinity of "Plug"

9. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Has he received a departmental report on the investigation of a suitable system to control floodwaters in the vicinity of the "Plug"?
 - (2) If so, what are the recommendations and will action be taken to have those which are considered suitable implemented before the winter of 1965?
 - (3) If the answer to (1) is "No", would he make this information available as soon as possible?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Yes. This should be available in about one month.

UNDERSIZED CRAYFISH

Seizure of 21 Bags by Fisheries Inspector Munro

10. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Fisheries:
 - (1) Is he aware of a consignment of 21 bags of undersized crayfish consigned to Ross International Fisheries having been seized by an Inspector Munro near Yanchep about Easter of this year?
 - (2) Is he aware that the police directed Inspector Munro to this truck containing this consignment?
 - (3) Why has action not been taken by the Fisheries Department in respect of this consignment?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Twenty-five bags of crayfish were seized by Senior Inspector J. E. Munro at 3.20 a.m. on the 16th May, 1964.
- (2) Mr. Munro acted on information received.
- (3) The person at the time in possession of the crayfish was convicted at the Perth Police Court on the 12th September, 1964, and fined £10 plus an additional penalty of £111 13s. being 1s. for each undersized crayfish seized.

11. *This question was postponed.*

ALBANY-DENMARK ROAD

Replanning, Re-routing, and Alignment

12. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Has the Main Roads Department given thought and consideration to replanning, re-routing, and alignment of Albany-Denmark road?

- (2) If so, could the plan of the proposed realignment be made available for inspection?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No. The Main Roads Department is at present concentrating on the completion of the Albany-Torbay-Youngs Siding Road. When this work is complete the matter of substantial improvement of the Albany-Denmark main road will be considered. In the meantime it is being adequately maintained.
- (2) Answered by (1).

DRAINAGE OF JOONDANNA DISTRICT

Reason for Increase in Rates

13. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that the metropolitan water supply authority has increased the amount payable to the board by residents in Joondanna district?
- (2) Is he aware that an additional charge in the form of a drainage rate of 4d. in the pound on annual valuation has been levied on residents in this district?
- (3) What is the reason for imposing the additional charge?
- (4) In view of his assurance that the establishment of a water supply board would not mean increased charges or payments to property owners, will he take action to have the additional charges cancelled?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) The construction of a pumping station and rising main for purposes of main drainage within the area rated.
- (4) No.
- (5) See (3).

CALISTA SCHOOL

Official Opening

14. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Calista School been officially declared open?
- (2) If so, by whom?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) It was not officially opened by me. I understand that Senator T. C. Drake-Brockman advised the headmaster that he would be visiting the school to present a flag on behalf of the Prime Minister and the headmaster took advantage of the occasion by asking the senator if

he would officially open the school. I was not previously advised and steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence elsewhere. I regret any embarrassment that might have been occasioned to any honourable members of Parliament concerned.

RAILWAYS DEPARTMENT

Reprinting of Books of Instruction

15. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Railways:

As the department's books of instruction, particularly the goods rates book and supplement and coaching rates book and supplement have reached a state, through constant amendment, of being practically indecipherable and particularly difficult for railways staff to use, will he advise when it is intended to have these books reprinted?

Mr. COURT replied:

It is intended to reprint the coaching rates book and supplement and preparation for their reprint is currently well advanced. The goods rates book was reprinted in 1960 and is not in the condition suggested by the honourable member. However, it is intended to reprint the goods rates book and supplement to incorporate the changes in both the present currency and decimal currency and it is anticipated that the work will be completed by mid-1965.

CHRISTINE STREET, HAZELMERE

Sale of Lot 120

16. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it proposed to sell lot 120, Christine Street, Hazelmere?
- (2) If so, when is it likely to be made available and under what conditions?
- (3) If not, what are the reasons?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

This question should have been asked of the Minister representing the Minister for Housing. The answer is as follows:—

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) This lot is owned by the State Housing Commission and is reserved as a special-purpose site for use by the commission.

BEACH COTTAGES AND CARAVAN PARK AT GERALDTON

Removal from West End Beach to Page's Beach

17. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Works:

As the area of Government land known as the West End Beach at Geraldton which has been occupied by privately owned beach holiday cottages and a municipal caravan park for a number of years will now have to vacate this area to make way for harbour extensions, will he say what progress has been made with the Government's proposal to make another site available at Page's Beach to accommodate those people forced to leave the present site?

Mr. WILD replied:

Two alternative sites, one of which is Page's Beach area, for a new beach cottage and caravan park area are under consideration by the Government and the Geraldton Municipal Council. An early decision favourable to all parties, may be expected.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

Early Arrival at Schools

18. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) At how many schools do pupils arrive by school bus at 7.50 a.m. or earlier to commence school at 9 a.m.?
- (2) At what schools does this happen?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) This information is not readily available and it would take some time to make an exhaustive inquiry.
- (2) A partial check has not revealed any other than Eastern Hills High School.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Care and Control of Valuables

1. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there a section or persons responsible for the care and control of valuables taken from persons entering Government hospitals or institutions?
- (2) What control has the Public Health Department over privately-leased and controlled hospitals and institutions with respect to the care and control of

goods and valuables of persons entering such hospitals or institutions?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Each hospital and institution has a slightly different form of control with regard to the care of possessions of patients undergoing treatment. There is a responsible person who takes charge of this.
- (2) The Public Health Department has no control.

POWER LINES IN CANNING ELECTORATE

Representations to Railways Department

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

Is he in a position to give the information he said he would on Wednesday, the 9th September, in answer to my question 17 of that day which asked whether any representations were made to the Railways Department to obtain permission to have the power line erected parallel with the proposed standard gauge line through Canning Vale?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I have not the information with me. The manager of the S.E.C. has been out of the State, but I hope to be able to have the answers for the honourable member next week.

DECORUM OF THE HOUSE

Use of Term "Honourable" in Governor's Speech

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Speaker:

Having regard to your dictum, Sir, that all honourable persons who occupy honourable seats in this honourable Parliament should, in future, be referred to as honourable members, do you intend to take steps to ensure that on the next occasion on which the honourable His Excellency opens this Parliament he will do something better than, or different from, his introductory remarks which read—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) replied:

I would not presume to say what His Excellency should put in his Speech. That surely is a Speech delivered by his Excellency and I would not presume to make any suggestions.

COPPER SULPHATE AND ORE*Production and Price*

4. Mr. HART asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the quantity of copper sulphate produced in Western Australia?
- (2) Where is it produced?
- (3) What is the price per ton?
- (4) If none is produced in Western Australia, what is the price per ton landed in this State?
- (5) How much copper ore is produced in Western Australia?
- (6) In what areas is it produced?
- (7) What is the price per ton?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) Approximately £158 per ton c.i.f. Fremantle.
- (5) For the year ended the 31st December, 1963—3,235 tons averaging 14.1 per cent. copper (cupreous ore and concentrates for fertiliser purposes).
- (6) Cupreous ore and concentrates for fertiliser purposes are produced from the Pilbara, West Pilbara, Ashburton, Gascoyne, East Murchison, Peak Hill, Yalgoo, Mt. Margaret, Coolgardie, Northampton, and Phillips River mineral fields.
- (7) The price varies from £33 15s. (10 per cent. copper) to £72 10s. (20 per cent. copper) ground, bagged, and delivered to the fertiliser works.

DECORUM OF THE HOUSE*Speaker's Entrance and Departure:
Form of Recognition*

5. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Speaker:

Did you, Sir, see in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* an article entitled, "A Question Of Manners" written by a Frank Harvey? If you did, do you think it is implied that when visitors stand in Parliament it could possibly be interpreted as a mark of disrespect rather than a mark of respect? As it has always been the procedure in this House that people in the Speaker's gallery and the public gallery stand in acknowledgment when you enter or leave the Chamber at the beginning or end of a sitting—which is a practice indulged in, in all of the galleries of the courts of this country—is it your wish that people should sit or stand on such occasions?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) replied:

The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes". I see no reason to alter the customary procedures that have been adopted. As I mentioned earlier, I am at a certain disadvantage in my position here in some respects in knowing what does happen.

DRAINAGE IN JOONDANNA DISTRICT*Site of Pumping Station*

6. Mr. W. HEGNEY: I asked the Minister for Works a series of questions one of which was, "Is he aware that an additional charge in the form of a drainage rate of 4d. in the pound on annual valuations has been levied on residents in the Joondanna district", to which the Minister answered "Yes". I then asked the reason for the additional charge and the Minister said it was the construction of a pumping station and rising main for purposes of main drainage within the area rated. Can the Minister inform me where the proposed pumping station will be constructed?

Mr. WILD: I cannot. That answer was obtained from the General Manager of the Metropolitan Water Board. But I will ascertain the information for the honourable member and let him know on Tuesday.

ROAD TRUNCATION IN DANGIN*Preservation of Ornamental Trees*

7. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Works:

Would he cause a further survey to be made by the Main Roads Department of the proposed corner truncation at the Dangin townsite with a view to preserving the ornamental trees which appear in danger of having to be removed in order to effect the marked truncation?

Mr. WILD replied:

Departmental officers will re-examine the situation; and, in any case, it will be some weeks before any work is put in hand.

SWAN RIVER RECLAMATION*Acreage Affected by Kwinana Freeway Project*

8. Mr. WILD: Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition posed a question to me in connection

with resumptions on the Upper Swan and I now have the following answer:—

Information supplied by the Engineer, Harbours and Rivers Department reveals that dredging for the Kwinana Freeway project commenced in August, 1957 and was completed in December, 1959. A total of 1,514,407 yards of spoil was dredged. The length of shore line concerned is approximately three miles and the area filled 80 acres. The area of reclamation which raised the level of what was previously water area including those portions which would at times be exposed at low tides is 42 acres.

In other words of the 80 acres referred to above 42 acres were taken from the river itself.

In addition to the above, 68 acres were reclaimed in the Mounts Bay Road-Narrows Bridge area.

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Students Entitled to Sit

9. Mr. TOMS: Arising out of question No. 35 on Tuesday, when I asked the Minister for Education what were the respective totals of students entitled to take the Junior examination, I was supplied with figures in lieu of the words "entitled to take the Junior examination"—in other words, enrolments. Therefore I take it that all those enrolled were entitled to take the Junior examination in a particular year. However, there is a disparity in the figure of those who are entitled to take the examination and those who take the examination. It is fairly common knowledge that some of these children are put into certain classes and sorted out in regard to this examination. Is the Minister aware of this practice; and, if so, in these times when it is necessary for children to take the Junior examination, will he see this practice is discontinued and that every child is given an opportunity of passing the Junior?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Without having the question before me and having any notice of it at all, I speak subject to correction; but I can say that a number of children enrolled and starting the course for the Junior examination are subsequently found not academically capable of doing fairly well in the Junior Certificate examination; and, by arrangement with their parents,

they are put in a high-school-certificate class, which is a rather junior standard of education to that for the Junior Certificate.

In some cases parents request that their children be placed in the high-school-certificate class because they are having difficulty in keeping up with the curriculum in the Junior Certificate class. However, if the honourable member desires to place a question on the notice paper asking a more specific question, I will endeavour to obtain the answer.

DECORUM OF THE HOUSE

Use of Term "Honourable" in Governor's Speech

10. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

In view of Mr. Speaker's decision that members of this Chamber should always be referred to with the prefix "honourable" before the word "member", thereby following a procedure that has been the case in the Legislative Council over the years, is it the intention of the Premier, when preparing the draft of His Excellency the Governor's Speech with which he opens sessions of Parliament, that the differentiation between Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly members will no longer continue? In other words, the prefix "honourable" will be used in both cases.

Mr. BRAND replied:

It is interesting to note that the honourable member for Balcatta has in mind that we will be preparing the draft of the next Governor's Speech.

Mr. Graham: I never suggested the next one; I was thinking many years ahead.

Mr. BRAND: I feel I can do no better than follow the example of my illustrious predecessor in this matter and the line that has been established for many years.

Mr. Graham: But there has been a new line established in the last week.

Mr. BRAND: That matter, Mr. Speaker, is subject to your decision, and is something apart—something for you to control and have regard to in this House.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and read a first time.

CANCER COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health), and transmitted to the Council.

SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 8th September, on the following motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [2.47 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to amend the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act of 1938-1963. The purpose of the Bill is to extend the field within which the Superannuation Board may invest surplus funds. The new field for investment which is proposed is associated with the acquisition of land by the board and the construction thereon of buildings, provided such buildings are constructed for purposes associated with the work of the board.

The Premier, when explaining the reason for seeking parliamentary approval for this amendment, pointed out that the board, supported by the Government, was anxious to have constructed on land already owned by the Government within the City of Perth, buildings for the accommodation of the staff of the board and the activities of the board; and, in addition, to let such space in the building as might remain unoccupied to other Government departments and, if needs be, to private tenants.

The Premier assured the House that the investment which the board would make in relation to this proposal would not reduce the effective rate of investment of the board's moneys. He went further and said the Government would guarantee the board a fair return on the money invested by guaranteeing a total minimum return from rentals following the construction of the building and the subsequent letting of the accommodation within it.

I am not sure whether the Government proposes to have a written document prepared and signed as between the Government and the Superannuation Board in connection with this proposal. I would appreciate it if the Premier would, when replying to the debate on the Bill, clarify that point, because it seems to me to be a very important one.

I would hope there would be a written agreement between the Government, in the name of the State, and the board, to

ensure that this protection of any investment which the board might make in this field would be adequate to ensure that the return on the board's investment would be somewhere in line with the average return which the board would receive from all of the money which it would invest in the several other directions where board moneys are invested.

We know the Superannuation Board has, indeed, invested a very large sum of money during its years of operation. Much of this money has gone to local authorities. Some of it has, I understand, gone into housing through various agencies; and the board, by making these investments, has played a valuable part in assisting local government authorities and the other authorities which have been assisted to carry out works and undertakings which would not have been possible had the superannuation funds not been available.

We were also told that a fair amount of the board's funds had in past years been invested in Eastern States undertakings, presumably because at the time there were not sufficient fields of investment open to the board within the State of Western Australia.

According to the information given by the Premier in his second reading speech, most or all of the investments made by the board in Eastern States securities would be falling due in the reasonably near future, and the intention of the board is to use those investments in connection with the construction of the proposed building on the site in St. George's Terrace, Perth.

I have no objection to the proposal contained in this Bill, even though one might feel the investment of approximately £1,000,000 by the board in the construction of this building in the City of Perth will reduce the ability of the board to that extent to make further loans available up to that amount to local government authorities or to assist in the construction of housing and in other essential and desirable avenues.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [2.55 p.m.]: I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support in this matter. He did raise one query as to whether a written agreement would be arranged between the Superannuation Board and the Government in respect of guarantees. I cannot say at this stage whether it is intended to have a written document, but I will give the undertaking that we will provide whatever security and guarantee is necessary to confirm the principle.

It may appear to be advisable that some agreement should be made between the Government and the board. It is realised that we are dealing with subscribers' money and they will require every guarantee and security possible.

Money that will become available as a result of the end of the lending period of our money in the Eastern States will go into this project. It will be financed over a couple of years, and I can assure the House it will make no impact whatsoever on the availability of the money from the Superannuation Board in respect of the requirements of local authorities and such other bodies as have been accustomed to obtain their moneys from this source.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.
2. Administration Act Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Council; and, on motions by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), read a first time.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1964-65

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending that appropriations be made in accordance with the Estimates of Expenditure from the General Loan Fund for the year ending the 30th June, 1965.

In Committee

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

Vote: Railways, £4,700,000—

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [3.3 p.m.]: I must apologise to the Committee inasmuch as this speech will be a rather long one. Apart from such a Budget as Mr. Bolte might have produced recently, general Budgets are a little less interesting than the Loan Estimates. In this regard, we have followed the practice of the Treasurer introducing the Loan Estimates; and the Ministers are only present to answer any questions dealing with their special departments, that might be raised from time to time.

The object of the speech is to point out that, from the point of view of the capital works money that we have available to us this year, there is a very interesting story to be told; and I am sure it will be of interest to all members.

Total Borrowings: Western Australia's Allocation

The total borrowing programme for all State works and housing purposes has been fixed by the Australian Loan Council

at £290,000,000 for this current financial year. This is an increase of £18,000,000 on the programme approved for 1963-64.

For Western Australia, the £290,000,000 total programme will mean an allocation of £27,084,000 which exceeds the amount provided last year by £1,681,000. Of the £27,084,000, a sum of £3,600,000 has been allotted for Commonwealth-State Housing projects. The balance of £23,484,000 together with £1,902,000 expected from loan repayments will enable the carrying out of the programme of works contained in the Estimates totalling £25,386,000.

Whilst the Estimates which we are considering deal only with the General Loan Fund, it is necessary to make a survey of total funds available for capital works in order to present a complete picture of the programme for this year.

Additional Assistance Grants

Perhaps the first item I should refer to is the additional assistance grants received from the Commonwealth during the past three years for the stimulation of employment. These grants were paid to all States, and in the case of Western Australia amounted to £3,906,000. Expenditure from these grants to the 30th June, 1964, totalled £2,756,000 which left an unexpended balance at that date of £1,150,000. It is proposed to spend this balance in the current year by the allocation of £100,000 to the Fremantle Harbour Trust and £1,050,000 to the State Housing Commission.

Details of expenditure from these grants over the past three years are set out for the information of members in a table at page 18 of the Estimates. The Commonwealth declined to renew these grants in 1964-65; but, in view of the balance available for works from previous years' allocations, the non-recurrence of the grant in this current year does not result in any diminution of funds on this account.

Borrowings of Semi-governmental Bodies

The borrowing programme of semi-governmental bodies and local authorities whose individual raisings will exceed £100,000 in this year was fixed at £125,000,000 for all States, which is an increase of only £3,893,000 over last year's approved total programme. However, of the increase of £3,893,000, Western Australia has been allotted £1,123,000, which has lifted our allocation from last year's figure of £4,014,000 to £5,137,000.

This increase represents a marked advance in the State's share of the approved borrowing programme for the larger instrumentalities and authorities. It resulted from a special plea to the Loan Council to recognise our difficulties in coping with expansion and a population growth in excess of that of other States.

Although this special increase in borrowing authority applies initially to 1964-65 only, I believe we can put forward a good case for its continuance which, if agreed to, would certainly be a most valuable addition to this State's share of future programmes.

After providing for the requirements of the larger local government bodies, the remaining borrowing authority has been allocated to various instrumentalities which would otherwise need to be provided with finance for capital purposes from the State's general loan allocation. By making the maximum use of the semi-governmental allocation for 1964-65, works totalling £4,300,000 can be financed from this programme in the current year.

The decision taken in February, 1962, to remove the restrictions on the total amount which may be borrowed by authorities raising £100,000 or less during a year remains unchanged. Therefore no limit is placed on the total which may be borrowed in this sector of the programme during 1964-65, and in this respect it is proposed to arrange for the sum of £500,000 to be borrowed by a number of government instrumentalities.

Special Projects

A feature of the State's capital works programme which is of considerable importance is the assistance provided by the Commonwealth for special projects. Amounts available this year under various Federal Acts and agreements are estimated to total £27,361,000. Details of these provisions are—

	£
Commonwealth Aid Roads	11,528,000
Beef Cattle Roads	750,000
Standard Gauge Railway	8,680,000
Derby Jetty	57,000
Broome Jetty	550,000
Ord River Irrigation Scheme	734,000
Exmouth Town Development	230,000
University of Western Australia	619,000
Secondary Schools: Science Buildings and Equipment	259,000
Technical Training: Buildings and Equipment	357,000
War Service Homes and Homes for Armed Forces ..	3,370,000
Mental Institutions	227,000

Several of the provisions I have just referred to are new and there have been developments in respect of others which deserve comment. So I propose to deal briefly with each in turn.

Commonwealth Aid Roads Act

The Commonwealth Aid Roads Act of 1959 expired on the 30th June last, and was replaced by the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, 1964, which is to operate for the five-year period 1964-65 to 1968-69 inclusive.

A very pleasing feature of the new Act, as far as Western Australia is concerned, is that grants will continue to be distributed between the States on the same basis as that introduced in the 1959 Act; namely, in the proportions of 5 per cent. of the total to Tasmania and the remainder shared between the other five States—one-third according to population at the last preceding census; one-third according to area; and one-third according to vehicles registered at the 31st December preceding the year concerned.

Because of the weight given to area, this formula operates in our favour, and therefore the moves by New South Wales and Victoria at a conference of Premiers last March to water down the area component was not surprising. However, these moves failed.

Grants Payable to States

Under the new Act the total grants payable to the States during these next five years will exceed the total amount provided over the preceding five years by 50 per cent.

As was the case under the 1959 Act, grants are to be divided into two parts—a basic grant and a matching grant. The matching grant is payable, subject to certain annual limits, on the basis of one pound for every pound spent on roads by the State Governments from their own resources over and above the amounts which it was necessary to allocate in 1963-64 in order to qualify for the full matching grant in that year.

In our case we are required to spend an additional £532,000 from our own resources in each of the next five years if we are to attract the full amount of the matching grant available over this period.

In the past five years the required annual increase in the amount allocated from the State's own resources in order to obtain the maximum Commonwealth grant was £353,000. The normal growth in collections from motor vehicle and drivers' license fees enabled us to meet this target.

However, the lift to an annual increment of £532,000 in the amount of the matching grant available to this State on a pound for pound basis leaves us in the position of having to supplement the amount available for expenditure on roads if we are to attract this grant. This is because the normal growth in collections from motor vehicle and drivers' license fees will not be sufficient to attract the full grant.

Allocation from General Loan Fund

It is therefore necessary to make an allocation of £250,000 from the General Loan Fund in 1964-65 for expenditure on roads and bridges, and the Estimates provide accordingly. I might say, at this

point, that it is a long time since we have had to put any money towards road works in this State.

Change in Local Authorities' Arrangements

The provisions of the new Commonwealth Aid Roads Act will also require some change in existing arrangements for the participation by local authorities in the benefits of the matching grants, and consideration is now being given to a new scheme, details of which will be explained to the House in due course.

Road Works in the North

To the 30th June last, Commonwealth grants totalling £1,950,000 have been spent on road works in the northern part of the State in order to improve roads for the transport of beef cattle from the area. A further £750,000 will be received in 1964-65 for this purpose.

Standard Gauge Railway

Financial assistance received from the Commonwealth in respect of the construction of the standard gauge railway amounted to £5,925,000 to the 30th June, 1964. It is estimated that the Commonwealth's commitment on this project in this current year will rise to £8,680,000.

New Derby Jetty

The Commonwealth is providing financial assistance up to £800,000 towards meeting the cost of constructing a new jetty with improved facilities at Derby. Work carried out to the 30th June last, and chargeable to the Commonwealth, totalled £743,000, and it is expected that the balance of £57,000 will be spent this year.

Broome Jetty and Ord River Irrigation Scheme

An agreement entered into with the Commonwealth last year provides for payments to the State up to a total of £3,500,000 to be applied primarily to the construction of a new deep-water jetty at Broome and to the construction of further irrigation works within the first stage of the Ord River irrigation scheme. Payments to the State under this agreement amounted to £1,083,000 in 1963-64, and it is expected that £1,284,000 will be drawn in 1964-65.

Development of Exmouth

The Commonwealth has agreed to contribute, by way of grant, an amount of £565,000 towards meeting the cost of developing the town of Exmouth to serve an integrated United States-Australian community associated with the United States Naval Communication Station at North West Cape. The grant is being made available over the period ending the 31st

December, 1966, on the basis of one-half of the expenditure incurred by the State on the project. It is estimated that £230,000 will be drawn in 1964-65.

University Capital Works Programme

For some years now the Commonwealth has been contributing on a pound for pound basis with the States in meeting the cost of capital works and equipment required by universities in order to meet demands arising from increased enrolments. Needs are assessed by the Australian Universities Commission, and in its second report, presented on the 27th August, 1963, the commission put forward recommendations in respect of the three-year period commencing on the 1st January, 1964.

In the main, the commission's recommendations were accepted, with the result that further substantial assistance will be given to the States for the universities in each of the calendar years 1964 to 1966. It is anticipated that in this current financial year a sum of £619,000 will be available from Commonwealth funds to assist in financing this year's capital works programme of the University of Western Australia.

Technical and Secondary Schools

With the object of improving technical school facilities and science teaching in secondary schools, the Commonwealth is now making annual grants towards the building and equipment costs of technical schools, and for the provision of building and equipment facilities for science teaching in secondary schools.

The maximum amounts payable to Western Australia in 1964-65 in respect of Government schools are £259,000 for secondary schools and £357,000 for technical schools. It is anticipated that these amounts will be spent this year.

War Service Homes

The allocations to be received this year for war service homes and houses for members of the armed forces are a continuation of the programmes which have been a regular feature of the State's activities for many years.

Mental Institutions

For some years the Commonwealth has also been making contributions towards meeting capital expenditure incurred by the States on mental institutions. The Commonwealth assistance was on the basis of one-third of the total expenditures by the States with a specified limit for each State. A recent Federal Act authorises the continuance of this assistance for a further period of three years commencing the 1st July, 1964. It is expected that £227,000 will be received on this account during the current year.

Capital Works Programme

Other funds which are available to finance capital works in this current year include the domestic resources of certain instrumentalities. These funds are largely the result of cash accumulations following the charging of depreciation to operating expenses, but in other instances represent cash balances brought forward from last financial year.

Finance available for spending in 1964-65 from this source is estimated to be £10,540,000, the biggest single item being the domestic funds of the State Electricity Commission, which will amount to £3,800,000.

In all, the total capital works programme for 1964-65 is estimated at £72,837,000 which will be financed from the following sources:—

	£
Loan Allocation	23,484,000
Commonwealth-State	
Housing Allocation	3,600,000
Loan Repayments	1,902,000
Additional Assistance	
Grant	1,150,000
Semi-Governmental	
Borrowing	4,800,000
Grants and Advances from	
the Commonwealth	27,361,000
Domestic Funds	10,540,000

Expenditure in 1963-64 which was financed from similar sources amounted to £55,700,000, and so the current programme represents an increase of over £17,000,000, or 30 per cent. greater than last year.

The Estimates of expenditure from the General Loan Fund itself, as I have already mentioned, embrace a programme of works totalling £25,386,000, and I now propose to refer to the main items making up this total.

Railways Expenditure

Expenditure recorded against the General Loan Fund during 1963-64 amounted to £4,878,000 under the following broad headings:—

	£
Additions and improvements to opened railways	1,834,000
Rolling stock	1,046,000
Kewdale marshalling yards and connecting railways	171,000
Fremantle-North Fremantle:	
New river bridge construction and associated works	414,000
Cockburn Cement Co. railway	13,000
Kwinana-Jarrahdale railway	273,000
Standardisation of gauge	1,096,000
Other works	31,000

For this current financial year, an allocation of £4,700,000 has been made from the General Loan Fund to continue works in progress and to commence new works. To this amount has to be added a sum of £1,090,000 available from the rolling stock replacement fund which is to be spent on capital works this year.

With the impetus now being gained by the standard gauge project, the rate of progress on associated narrow gauge works and the rearrangement of existing facilities must be maintained to ensure completion of all undertakings with the coming into operation of standard gauge. In this regard, expenditure will continue on major projects such as Kewdale marshalling yards, and connecting railways from Kewdale to Midland, Welshpool, and Kenwick; a new station yard at West Northam; and other associated works involving narrow gauge facilities between Bellevue and Fremantle.

Further expenditure is included in the programme to finalise connections for the new railway bridge which has been constructed at North Fremantle, and also on the new Kwinana-Jarrahdale railway which, although opened for traffic on the 17th December, 1963, will absorb funds on additional bridges, accommodation works for adjoining landowners, and the balance of contractor's fees after completion of stipulated maintenance.

Other funds will be absorbed by planned new works and the continuation of a programme for renewal and replacement of existing assets throughout the service. Noteworthy items include building structures, plant and machinery, commencement of work on terminal facilities at Midland for integrated road-rail passenger services, construction of a new bridge at Balingup, and other items associated with permanent way, including extensive sleeper renewal and reballasting programme.

Other works include the construction of a bridge over the Swan River at Upper Swan—a necessary work this year—and provision of two de luxe road buses as replacements on the Perth-Geraldton passenger service. Only necessary financial outlay is anticipated during 1964-65, but additional provision may be required during 1965-66 to effect desired improvements on this section to bring it into line with the rest of the State railway system.

The rolling stock programme for 1964-65 includes major commitments for completion of contracts for six diesel electric mainline locomotives and five diesel hydraulic shunting locomotives which will enable further operating economies to be effected. Deliveries will commence in October of this year and continue until the latter part of February, 1965, and present indications are that all will be on traffic during this financial year.

Expenditure is also included for completion of five additional diesel railcar trailers for release to traffic this year, and commencement will be made on a further five later in the year. Work is nearing finality on the construction of bogie-refrigerated and four-wheel cool-storage rail vans, and an extensive conversion and construction programme has been designed to meet traffic requirements with adequate wagon stock. The workshops programme is designed to ensure that no imbalance occurs and that capacity for construction is fully absorbed. It is confidently anticipated that this object will be achieved.

In addition to the funds to be provided from State sources, the department expects to spend £3,680,000 next year from funds provided by the Commonwealth under the standard gauge agreement, compared with £3,763,000 last year. The total programme for the railways this year is therefore very much higher than in the last financial year.

State Electricity Commission Allocation and Loans

As was the case in 1963-64, no provision is made in the Estimates for an allocation to the State Electricity Commission from the General Loan Fund. The commission financed its capital works programme in 1963-64 from subscribed loans and domestic funds, and it will do the same this year. Loan raisings by the commission last year totalled £1,650,000, and domestic funds amounted to £3,262,000.

In this current year it has been possible, because of the increase in the State's semi-governmental borrowing programme, to lift the allotment to the State Electricity Commission to £2,500,000, which it will have no difficulty in raising. In addition, domestic funds available to the commission this year are estimated at £3,800,000, which will permit a programme of works considerably higher than last year.

The extension and improvement of transmission and distribution systems in the metropolitan and country areas will be continued, as will also the construction of the new Muja power station. Work on the erection of the first two 60-megawatt units at Muja is proceeding to schedule, and contracts have been let for two further units which will give the station when completed in 1969 a capacity of 240 megawatts. It is expected that the No. 1 unit will be ready for commercial operation during 1965. The other three units will be commissioned as required to meet the load growth.

Harbours and Rivers

Last year the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department spent £3,925,000 from the General Loan Fund on capital works in various parts of the State.

In this current year provision has been made for expenditure of £4,315,000. The main headings of estimated expenditure for 1964-65 in areas south of the 26th parallel are—

	£
Esperance Harbour Works	760,000
Geraldton Harbour Works	259,000
Improvement to Harbours and Rivers	162,000
Country Areas and Town Water Supplies	1,370,000
Sewerage for Country Towns	200,000
Drainage and Irrigation	420,000
Services for Industry	205,000

The large provision for Esperance Harbour is to enable work to proceed on the breakwater, to carry on with dredging operations, and to commence construction of the new berth together with ancillaries and services. Expenditure on this project last year amounted to £223,000.

In 1963-64 an amount of £227,000 was expended on Bunbury Harbour works including the new land-backed berth and services, reclamation works, and improvements to facilities for the fishing industry. Work in this current year will be financed from private loan raisings, and will result in completion of the No. 1 land-backed berth and breakwater.

Representations from the Bunbury Harbour Board for the construction of a second land-backed berth are at present being considered and planning is proceeding. Should the work be approved, tenders will be called in sufficient time to enable the physical commencement to be made towards the end of this financial year.

Last year a sum of £241,000 was spent at Geraldton on dredging for harbour deepening in the outer berths, the entrance channel, and outer approaches. Improvements were carried out to existing berths, including an extension of 140 feet, as well as to the fishing-boat harbour. Allowance has been made for expenditure in 1964-65 of £259,000 mainly for the construction of the No. 4 berth and further dredging.

Improvements to harbours and rivers are estimated to cost £162,000 this year, which will allow further work on the Fremantle fishing-boat harbour to cost £59,000, dredging of the Swan River, £50,000, and the provision of a new cradle for the south slipway at Fremantle, £52,000.

Comprehensive, Country, and Town Water Supplies

During 1963-64 an amount of £499,000 was spent on the comprehensive water supply scheme and £806,000 on country areas and town water supplies. Provision has been made in this year's programme

for expenditure on the comprehensive scheme of £535,000, the main works being—

	£
New boosters at Chidlow and Grass Valley for the goldfields water supply main	113,000
Katanning-Gnowangerup main	139,000
Narrogin-Wickepin main	147,000
Quairading main	35,000
Meenar-Quellington main	51,000
Wickepin-Yealering main ..	10,000
Kokardine-Kalannie main ..	10,000

The Prime Minister has replied to representations from the State seeking Commonwealth participation in the extension of the comprehensive scheme, by offering to provide financial assistance commencing with the year 1965-66, on the basis of an interest-bearing loan. Under the offer the loan is to be one-half of expenditure incurred by the State on the project from the 1st July, 1965, subject to a limit of £5,250,000 on the total amount of Commonwealth assistance.

Action is proceeding in an attempt to obtain better terms than those offered, and a conclusion in the matter should be reached shortly. Commonwealth assistance would, of course, speed up the work considerably, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory agreement can be reached with the Commonwealth Government.

A sum of £835,000 has been allowed for country areas and town water supplies and includes provision for the following:—

	£
Enlargement of and renovations to the main conduit	74,000
Purchase of new meters	47,000
Albany town water supply	37,000
Geraldton (Wicherina bores—that is, the existing water supply)	25,000
Esperance	19,000
Minor water supplies in drier areas including Karlgarin key dam and miners' settlement extension	30,000
Northcliffe	30,000
Newdegate	20,000
Jerramungup	14,000
Northampton	30,000
Morawa	117,000
Geraldton (the new Allanooka scheme)	40,000
Dongara	30,000

The largest single item in the programme is the provision for commencement on work to provide Morawa with an augmented water supply. This has become essential with the construction now proceeding of 40 to 50 additional houses in the town by the Western Mining Corporation. The existing water supply for Morawa is based on an artificial catchment and storage dam. During most of

the recent years it has been necessary to restrict the supply to consumers. The pattern of rainfall in the district is not suited to local catchment schemes, and for this reason extensive investigations have been carried out in an effort to locate a suitable source of underground water. This has been discovered in the vicinity of Arrino, and a supply of water is assured sufficient to meet the needs of Morawa and Perenjori together with farmlands abutting the main.

The first stage of the project is the construction of a pipeline from a regulating tank in the Billeranga Hills to Morawa, and this will be proceeded with in this current year. Another important work in order to relieve the present strain on the Wicherina Basin in supplying water to Geraldton is the development of additional supplies by exploitation of a large basin of good quality underground water at Allanooka about 35 miles south-east of Geraldton.

In order to utilise this basin it is necessary to drill and equip a number of bores, to install pumping machinery, and to construct both a pipeline and a power line. The estimated cost of these works is £1,120,000, the likely spread of which will be—

	£
1964-65	40,000
1965-66	441,000
1966-67	525,000
1967-68	114,000

The Allanooka basin is also the nearest proved source of underground supply to Dongara, and a start will be made this year on supplying that town from this source. It is expected that the work will be completed by December, 1965.

Country Sewerage Schemes

During this year work on 10 country sewerage schemes will be carried out at an estimated cost of £200,000, the major items being—

	£
Albany	40,000
Bunbury	55,000
Narrogin	15,000
Three Springs	10,000
Collie	8,000
Kellerberrin	11,000
Gnowangerup	36,000

In Gnowangerup, difficulty is being experienced in disposing of effluent from septic tanks because of heavy clay ground. The provision of £36,000 in the Estimates is to allow the commencement of a sewerage scheme.

Drainage and Irrigation

Under the heading of "Drainage and Irrigation" an amount of £355,000 was spent in 1963-64, the main items being Logue Brook Dam, £69,000; Collie main channel enlargement, £52,000; and Warcoona Dam, £152,000. The provision for this current year is £420,000.

Further work on the Drakesbrook Dam at Waroona to cost £268,000 is the major project being undertaken this year. This project, which was commenced in last financial year, is to augment the supply of irrigation water to the Waroona district and should be completed next year at a total cost of £700,000.

Work on the enlargement and rehabilitation of channels to utilise extra water from Wellington Dam will also be continued at an estimated cost of £45,000 in the coming year. A provision of £205,000 has been made under the heading "Services for Industry" to cover the cost of completing the Koolyanobbing water supply main and to contribute to the cost of a sewerage scheme, also at Koolyanobbing, and additional work on the Laporte effluent pipeline.

Engineering Work in the North

In the north of the State, allowances have been made for engineering works as follows:—

	£
Additions and improvements to jetties, tramways, and rolling stock	250,000
Water supplies and sewerage	200,000
Irrigation	280,000
Electricity for Government establishments	141,000

I hope the time will be reached when the S.E.C. will become responsible for all our electrical undertakings. The matter is being investigated, but no doubt it will take some time to achieve our general objective.

The main work to be financed from the vote for additions and improvements to jetties is the completion of the Derby Jetty, which will absorb £170,000 of State loan funds in addition to the balance of £57,000 available from the Commonwealth and to which I referred earlier.

Desirable improvements at the ports of Wyndham and Port Hedland are estimated to cost £56,000 in the current year. Expenditure on water supplies amounting to £200,000 will include works at Shark Bay, £18,000; Port Hedland, £10,000; Derby, £20,000; Wyndham, £61,000; and Kununurra, £25,000.

Works associated with the Ord River scheme, which are the financial responsibility of the State and amount to £207,000, largely account for the provision under the heading "Irrigation." Farm land preparation, Kununurra townsite development, and payments in respect of the diversion dam are the main items.

Electricity for Government establishments in the north will require £141,000 next year, of which an amount of £115,000 is for the installation of two 1,000 K.V.A. generating sets at Kununurra. These have become necessary owing to the increasing load from the new cotton ginnery and the Kimberley Research Station, together with the general growth of the town.

In 1963-64 a total sum of £7,233,000 was spent from the General Loan Fund on architectural works throughout the State. In this current year provision has been made in the Estimates to spend £10,100,000, which is an increase of almost 40 per cent.

School Buildings

School buildings last year cost £2,707,000. This year the outlay is estimated at £3,314,000. Last year 233 classrooms were constructed. The erection of two new high schools, Mirrabooka and Cannington, has commenced, and a contract was recently let for a high school at Esperance. It is anticipated that during 1964-65 a start will be made on the construction of high schools at Kewdale, City Beach, Eden Hill, and Bunbury.

Additions have been carried out to several high schools and further work to provide extra classrooms and improvements to seven high schools is anticipated during the present year to cope with the increased school leaving age to be operative in 1966.

Provision has been made for the erection of 11 new primary schools throughout the State. Planning has already commenced and some will be opened early in 1965. New primary schools at Calista, Balcatta, Broomehill, Cloverdale, Dianella, Greenmount, Karrinyup, Gingin, Miling, Geraldton, and Kununurra were completed during the past year.

Additions have been completed to various existing primary schools and it is anticipated that some 150 extra classrooms to primary schools, including new primaries, will be built during the coming year.

Contracts were let during 1963-64 for the Institute of Technology at Bentley and additions are currently in hand to Carlisle, Wembley, Claremont, and Mt. Lawley technical schools. It is planned to commence additions to Harvey Agricultural High School during the year.

Expenditure on Hospitals

Expenditure on hospitals in 1963-64 totalled £1,997,000. Spending this year is expected to rise to £2,617,000. Major works completed last year included the Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital, the Shenton Park Paraplegics Block and additions to King Edward Memorial Hospital, as well as to hospitals at Kondinin and Merredin. Additions and remodelling were also carried out in many country hospitals. Nurses' quarters at Geraldton, Bunbury, Shenton Park, and Derby have been completed. Regional hospitals at Bunbury and Geraldton are under construction, together with substantial additions to the Fremantle Hospital by way of a new operating theatre block and a new day centre.

A commencement on new hospitals at Wongan Hills and Augusta is anticipated this year, plus additions to other hospitals. Planning of the new Bentley hospital is proceeding and construction is expected to commence about the end of this year.

In the north-west the hospital works in progress embrace the Wittenoom and Onslow hospitals, and a native wing at Derby; and new works include a hospital block at Broome.

Police

During the past year a start was made on new headquarters for the police at East Perth, and the conversion of Perth Girls' High School for police purposes was completed as well as alterations to the C.I.B. offices. New police stations were provided at Kojonup, Gingin, Moora, Geraldton, and Nollamara. New stations will be erected this year at Meekatharra, Dalwalinu, Three Springs, and Gnowangerup, and additions will be made to the police station at Midland Junction.

Mental Institutions and Other Buildings

The first stage of the new mental institution at Guildford known as Lockridge is in progress, and further funds will be employed this year to permit construction. Substantial additions will be carried out this year at the Claremont Mental Hospital and the Child Health Centre, St. Omer, and at Heathcote.

Planning is well advanced for a new gaol at Albany and tenders will be called during 1964-65. Additions will also be made at Pardelup. The main items listed in the Estimates under "Other Buildings" include progress payments on the new Government offices on the Observatory site, and the completion of additions to the chemical laboratories. Funds have been provided for the new Observatory at Bickley and a new building for the Government Stores Department to be located at Welshpool.

Construction of the new remand home, Longmore, at Collier, is in progress and will be completed in the near future. New courthouses have been completed at various country towns and several are listed for construction this year. Similarly, new country offices for the Agricultural Department will be built.

State Shipping Service

Under the heading of State Shipping Service an amount of £340,000 has been provided. This sum will permit the service to improve its office accommodation at Wyndham, purchase additional steel cargo containers for more efficient handling of cargoes, and provide several fork lift trucks for use aboard vessels in handling cargo containers and other heavy freight.

The State Shipping Service is meeting increasing difficulty in accommodating the additional cargo offering for transport to northern ports. As an interim measure two vessels, the *Marra* and the *Denman* have been chartered for 12 months and six months respectively, and to provide some permanent addition to the capacity of the fleet, the *M.V. Koolama* is to be increased in length by some 24 feet so adding to her capacity by about 500 tons. An amount of £200,000 is included in the Estimates for this work.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.7 p.m.

Mr. BRAND: When we suspended for afternoon tea I had mentioned that £200,000 was included in the Estimates for increasing the length of the *Koolama* in order to add some 500 tons to her capacity.

Wyndham Freezing, Canning, and Meat Export Works

An amount of £100,000 is included in the Estimates for the purchase of new generating plant, and the conversion to A.C. of the electricity supply of the Wyndham Meat Works. The existing D.C. plant, which was installed many years ago, is costly to operate and maintain as well as being subject to the continued risk of a breakdown. The installation of A.C. equipment will improve the efficiency of the works, and will also permit an interchange of power supplies with the A.C. plant operated by the Wyndham-East Kimberley Shire Council in the event of a breakdown of either plant.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board

During the last financial year a sum of £1,479,000 was spent on water supply projects, £856,000 on sewerage, £237,000 on drainage, and £190,000 on salaries and incidentals, which brought the total expenditure of the department to £2,762,000. These works were financed by an allocation of £2,450,000 from the General Loan Fund, £160,000 from the Commonwealth grant for stimulation of employment, £100,000 from semi-governmental borrowings, and £52,000 from a Treasury grant. In this current year, works to the value of £3,000,000 are planned, which will be financed by an allotment of £2,800,000 from the General Loan Fund and a semi-government borrowing of £200,000.

Estimated expenditure in 1964-65 on water supply projects is £1,582,000; on sewerage works £951,000, and on drainage works £267,000. Salaries and incidental expenditure related to capital works will amount to £200,000.

Water Supplies

Last year £402,000 was spent on the completion of the Serpentine trunk main to Forrestdale with consequent increases in the output of the system. This year no

funds will be required to continue this main, but present indications are that further expenditure will be required next financial year.

In 1963-64, an amount of £34,000 was spent on sinking a second bore at Balcatta to augment supplies to the Mount Yokine reservoir. This year a further £21,000 has been provided to connect this bore to the pumping station. In addition, £78,000 was expended on the north-east outlet main from Mount Yokine, £48,000 on the northern outlet from Bold Park, and £75,000 on the extension of the Walter Road main. The last sum included the provision of a tied arch bridge to span the Swan River at Bassendean and connect into the Guildford system. This year £45,000 has been provided for the continuance of the Yokine north-east outlet main to Emberson Street, Morley; £70,000 for new mains from the Bold Park reservoir, and £14,000 for the completion of the Walter Road main.

The Forrestfield water supply scheme commenced last year with an expenditure of £36,000. This year a further £45,000 will be spent to complete the initial scheme, including the provision of pumping station, rising main, and summit tank.

Early in 1964 the North Scarborough water tower was completed at a cost of £41,000. On the programme for the current financial year, the sum of £50,000 has been provided for a new high level tank at Wembley Downs, together with a pumping station and rising main to serve them. For a small high level tank and pumps at Greenmount, £10,000 has also been provided.

A contract has recently been let for the construction of a new service reservoir at Hamilton Hill, for which £140,000 has been provided in the current programme. This reservoir is required to provide for the rapid development of the State Housing Commission area of Coolbellup, and to augment supplies in adjacent areas.

Provision has been made in the current programme for expenditure of £90,000 in the Kalamunda area. A sum of £27,000 has been provided for supplies to existing houses and the proposed development by the State Housing Commission along Wanneroo Road, and £26,000 for the extension of a feeder main to the rapidly expanding area between North Beach and Sorrento.

To allow for the commencement of a scheme to supply the Rockingham-Safety Bay area with a reticulated water supply, £75,000 has been provided together with £45,000 for stage 1 of the Herne Hill scheme.

An amount of £205,000 has been provided for service connections, £245,000 for minor extensions and improvements, and £100,000 for the purchase and fixing of meters.

Sewerage

Included in the sewerage programme is £560,000 to continue the South of the Swan River Scheme upon which £623,000

was spent last year. During the last financial year the new ocean outlet at Woodman Point was launched and the outfall from the treatment works to the point was laid. During the year the effluent from the Fremantle treatment works was diverted through this outfall and outlet. The funds provided in the current year will allow for the construction of the treatment works, together with the main line pumping stations and associated mains, to be brought up to an advanced stage so that they can be commissioned in the following financial year. During the current year, substantial expenditure will also be made on sewerage reticulation in the Palmyra area.

Provisions have also been made of £75,000 for the continuation of the Glendalough scheme, £40,000 for additional sewerage work in the Belmont industrial area, and £70,000 for continuation of the Armadale scheme.

Drainage

In the current year's programme provision has been made for expenditure of £70,000 to continue drainage works in the Morley Park area. Other drainage works provided for are—

	£
Welshpool	26,000
Riverton	22,000
South Belmont	12,000
Gosnells	15,000
Yokine	48,000

Last year a sum of £61,000 was spent at Welshpool, £43,000 at Bassendean; and £41,000 at South Belmont, Morley Park, and Hampton Park.

Mines

In 1963-64 a total of £150,000 was spent on development of mining and improvements to State batteries. This financial year a similar sum has been provided for works of this nature. Loans to small mine-owners to assist with development will be continued, and further assistance will be granted to prospectors. A provision of £60,000 has been made for the purchase of drilling equipment to allow an expansion of hydrological survey work. Minor improvements at several State batteries will also be carried out this year.

State Housing Commission

In last financial year the State Housing Commission was allocated £1,441,000 from the General Loan Fund. It also received £422,000 from the Commonwealth grant for stimulation of employment, and borrowed £900,000 under the semi-governmental programme. In addition, the commission was allocated £3,526,000 under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and £3,385,000 for war service homes. Total funds received in 1963-64 therefore amounted to £9,674,000 which, together with domestic funds, permitted a programme of capital expenditure totalling

£10,181,000. This figure excludes the cost of houses erected for departments and financed from other votes.

In 1964-65 the total capital expenditure of the commission is expected to approximate £11,960,000, which will be financed from a number of sources. Again, this figure excludes work for other departments. The allocation from the General Loan Fund in this current year will be £50,000, which will be supplemented with an allotment of £1,050,000 from the Commonwealth grant for stimulation of employment. One million pounds is to be raised from semi-governmental loans, and the allocation under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement will total £3,720,000. It is anticipated that £3,250,000 will be available for war service homes.

The balance of the programme will be financed from the sale of commission land and houses, principal repayments, and credit balances at the Treasury. In 1963-64 the commission completed 2,320 homes under all schemes, made up of—

- 1,722 purchase and rental homes.
- 176 war service homes.
- 14 for Government employees.
- 165 for Government departments.
- 139 for charitable organisations.
- 31 for employees of Laporte Titanium (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
- 73 flats for the McNess Housing Trust.

In addition, finance was allocated to approved building societies for 380 purchase homes. With war service homes finance, 410 newly-erected homes were purchased, and the State Housing Commission assisted 234 home purchasers by way of second mortgage finance.

At the close of the last financial year, 1,030 homes were in varying stages of construction. These houses will be completed during 1964-65, and it is anticipated that contracts will be let for approximately another 2,400 houses. Arrangements have been made for 30 houses to be completed at Koolyanobbing in 1964-65 for employees of Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., and a further contract will probably be arranged later in the year. This sum amounted to £100,000 last year. Quite apart from the prospect of new legislation being introduced and the setting up of an authority to deal with the matter, it enabled us to borrow another £100,000. A sum of £250,000 should provide a reasonable increase in the number of houses available this year to Government employees, including school teachers. This amount appears in the Estimates as an allocation from the General Loan Fund in 1963-64, but as this appropriation did not take place until the end of last financial year it was still in hand at the 30th June last.

Agriculture

Expenditure on development of agriculture in 1963-64 amounted to £328,000, of which two-thirds was expended on projects in the northern part of the State.

Progress payments on the cotton ginnery at Kununurra required £103,000; capital works at Kimberley Research Station, £31,000; the regeneration programme on Ord River stations, a further £54,000; while an amount of £27,000 was expended on the erection of the Yilgarn emu fence.

In the southern part of the State, the largest project undertaken was the completion of a new dormitory at Muresk which, with other improvements at the college required expenditure of £53,000.

In the current year it is proposed to continue the Ord River regeneration programme and provision of £50,000 is made for this purpose. Expenditure of £37,000 will be undertaken to complete the cotton ginnery, and an amount of £20,000 is included in the programme to commence the establishment of a cattle research station in the West Kimberley. This is a recent decision. The people of this part of the north have been pressing for a long time for a research station in the West Kimberley. I am glad to say that this programme provides for the first £20,000 of what I believe will be a £100,000 project to start this very important and timely research into the cattle and sheep industry in this part of the State.

At the main office of the department in South Perth, extensions and additions will be commenced to provide facilities for animal health staff and research workers. At Medina, preliminary work on the pig research station has been completed and the main buildings will be erected this year at an estimated cost of £53,000.

In addition to the main items already mentioned, the programme allows for improvements on research stations, including an electricity supply at Salmon Gums, a pre-cooling chamber at Upper Swan, staff accommodation, and various minor works.

Forests

Expenditure by the Forests Department during 1963-64 resulted in the establishment of 2,600 acres of pine plantations increasing the total area under pine in this State to 39,000 acres. Loan funds expended last year included £40,000 for half the cost of a new research building at Como, and its completion is expected this financial year.

The provision of £150,000 for 1964-65 will enable the continued maintenance of existing plantations and the planting of some 3,600 acres during the current year. I think we are all conscious of the need to press on with the planting of more light-wood timber in this State. This increased allocation will help in this direction.

Continued expansion of planting areas in the south will be maintained in anticipation of a future pulp and paper industry, together with accelerated planting of northern areas in anticipation of an increased demand for sawn timber and industrial material to provide for the needs of the increased population of the future.

Industrial Development

During 1963-64 a sum of £64,000 was expended by the Department of Industrial Development, of which £22,000 went on the purchase of land for industrial purposes and £42,000 on advances to industries. A provision of £200,000 has been made in the Estimates for the current year for the acquisition of further land for industrial purposes in the Kwinana and Kewdale areas, to provide assistance to industries, to aid in the establishment of new industry, and to assist the expansion of existing industry.

Fremantle Harbour Trust

The trust spent a total of £815,000 last year. Of this sum, the loan fund provided £470,000 and the balance came from private borrowings. This expenditure completed the new office building and also financed various other works including a small craft berth and the extension of the No. 9 grain gallery on the North Quay to provide increased capacity.

In the current year no general loan allocation is being made to the trust, but from other funds the undertaking will be able to carry out a total programme of works to cost £750,000, which will be financed in the following way:—

	£
Semi-governmental borrowings	100,000
Allocation from Commonwealth grant for employment stimulation ..	100,000
Depreciation funds for 1963-64 retained by the trust	270,000
Depreciation funds for 1964-65	280,000
	<hr/>
	£750,000

This programme will enable the trust to commence the outer harbour dredging which the State is committed to undertake in accordance with the agreement with Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. Provision is also made in the programme for preliminary work on the development of railway land to be released for harbour trust purposes. This work will be undertaken over a term of years and will not be completed until the railways have established marshalling facilities in the Robb Jetty area.

Other works to be undertaken will include the relocation of the Beach Street store, the rearrangement of the workshop and pick-up centres on the South Quay, and replacement of ferry launches and fork lift trucks.

Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust

Last financial year the trust spent £555,000 on capital works. This expenditure was financed by an allocation of

£60,000 from loan funds, £150,000 from private loan raisings, and the balance from the trust's domestic sources.

Acquisition of land in Adelaide Terrace cost £22,000, the purchase of 55 new buses £488,000, and other minor works £45,000. In the current year the trust will receive £90,000 from loan funds and will raise a further £100,000 from private loans. These amounts together with domestic funds will provide £582,000 for capital works in 1964-65.

The trust is endeavouring to modernise the bus fleet as quickly as finance will allow with the object of reducing maintenance costs and attracting more people to public transport. With this end in view, the major part of the programme for 1964-65 will be applied to the purchase of 50 new buses for general services and eight buses for use in road-rail co-ordination.

University of Western Australia

In 1963-64 an amount of £417,000 was provided from the General Loan Fund and a further sum of £300,000 was raised from private borrowings to finance the State's contribution in respect of capital works on the campus at Crawley.

Major works completed in 1963-64 were the first stage of the Faculty of Arts buildings, a new library building, and the second stage of the chemistry building. Various alterations were made to existing buildings to provide additional student accommodation. In addition, work was commenced on new buildings for the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, the Institute of Agriculture, the Department of Organic Chemistry, the Faculty of Law, and the Currie Hall of Residence for Students.

In 1964-65 a building programme costing approximately £1,300,000 is to be undertaken at the University. The State's share will be financed by an allocation of £116,000 from the General Loan Fund, and private borrowings amounting to £300,000. These funds, together with Commonwealth contributions, and cash balances of £248,000 held by the University, will enable substantial progress to be made with the works approved for the 1964-66 triennium.

Western Australian Tourist Development Authority

The Tourist Development Authority has been responsible for a very satisfactory acceleration of the development of tourist facilities in the State since it was created by the Tourist Act of 1959.

Particular emphasis is currently being placed on beach development, caravan parks, and the restoration of places of historical interest, such as the O'Connor Museum at Mundaring, the Old Jail at Toodyay, and Strawberry Farm at Albany. An allocation to the authority of £75,000

is allowed for in this year's Estimates, which is the same amount as was provided last year.

Loans and Grants to Local Authorities and Other Public Bodies

A provision of £342,000 has been made in the Estimates to continue loans and grants to various charitable bodies and other organisations.

Grants totalling £33,000 have been provided to assist in meeting the cost of conversion of electricity undertakings at nine country centres, and an amount of £34,000 has been allocated for assistance with the construction of swimming pools at a further eight centres.

The provision of infant health centres, subcentres for the St. John Ambulance Association, and various facilities for aged people at a number of localities, are to be subsidised in accordance with existing policy. An amount of £42,000 is provided for this purpose.

Funds are also provided to make further assistance available to the slow learning children's group, police boys' clubs, and for grants to assist in the establishment of residential colleges at the University.

The Home of Peace is planning to establish another hospital for the incurable sick in Morley Park at a total cost of £300,000, towards which sum the Government and the Lotteries Commission are each being requested to provide £100,000. Provision has been made in the Estimates for the first instalment of the Government's contribution.

Expenditure of £17,500 last year represented the final contribution of a five-year programme of assistance for the Rottneest Island Board. This assistance has permitted development of this resort, and a programme for a further five-year period is being framed at present. An amount of £20,000 is included in the Estimates for the current year for improvements to the water supply and tree planting.

I think it is fair to say that the marked improvement in the facilities at Rottneest Island in recent years has created a very real attraction for not only local people, but overseas people, and those on an island not far away. There is still a lot to be done with such tourist attractions and resorts, and we can only afford to do the necessary work gradually.

Assistance is to be given to the Royal Agricultural Society for the establishment of a new sheep pavilion at a total cost of £60,000. The society has arranged finance of £23,000. A Government grant of £20,000 will be made in the current year and a loan of £17,000 next financial year.

The allotment in the Estimates of £171,000 for Rural and Industries Bank delegated agencies includes £58,000 to meet

agreed reductions in guaranteed bank overdrafts on account of Esperance Superphosphate Works and Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd. Advances under the dairy farms improvement scheme and for Esperance Plains development are also provided for.

Conclusion

This ends my review of the Estimates, which has been necessarily lengthy in order to give as clear a picture as possible of the very extensive programme of capital works to be undertaken this year.

Before I conclude I would like to thank honourable members for their very attentive hearing. As I said in the beginning, this is one opportunity available to us to learn all about the very interesting programme prepared under the Loan Estimates. I think it is interesting to each and every one of us, because the programme represents things being done, provision for the future, and essential services, without which we cannot make much progress.

I would like to pay a compliment to the Under-Treasurer and his staff for their very good housekeeping of the Treasury, and for the very efficient way in which they have managed the affairs of the State, because what they do amounts to that; and I thank them for the advice which they have tendered to me and to the Ministers in respect of the availability of money and the economics of a number of projects.

The very good relationship, understanding, and trust which exists between the Federal Treasury and our State Treasury is something of which we can be proud; and we should make every endeavour to strengthen it. By this means Western Australia received the support of the Federal Treasurer in quite a number of projects, and that support has led to a very large programme of works for the State. Whilst I believe this programme can be carried out, it may require quite a build-up in immigration, in efficient forward planning, and in a great deal of hard work by each and every one of us to make the maximum out of the available money in 1964-65.

Progress

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

COUNTRY TOWNS SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Water Supplies) [4.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is introduced to carry out two major, and several minor, amendments to the Country Towns Sewerage Act. The

first main amendment is designed to correct an anomaly arising out of the present wording of the Act, which provides for the constitution of sewerage districts within any sewerage area. Although this procedure has been followed for compliance with the Act, it serves no real purpose.

Clause 5 of this Bill proposes that section 4 of the principal Act be repealed and replaced by a new section 4 governing the constitution of sewerage areas without any reference to sewerage districts. Machinery amendments giving effect to suitable changes of wording throughout the Act, as a consequence of the replacement of section 4, are contained in clauses 2, 3 (a), 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 22 (b), 23, 24, 26, 28 (a), 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 (a) and 35 of this Bill.

The second main proposal of this Bill deals with section 49 of the Act, which refers to valuation for rating purposes. Section 49 provides, in paragraph (b), that the annual value may be assessed on the yearly rental, less rates, taxes, and maintenance. Valuation procedure for some years has been to make a deduction of £40 per cent. for rates, taxes, and other outgoings, and this provision is, in fact, written into the Metropolitan Water Supply Act.

The amendment proposed by clause 15 of this Bill will eliminate the possibility that valuations may be challenged on the score that actual rates and taxes are not allowed in each separate case, and will bring section 49 in line with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water Supply Act.

It is also proposed that paragraph (c) of section 49, which provides, as an alternative valuation, an amount not exceeding £6 10s. per centum on the capital value of the land in fee simple, be amended to read £6 per centum for the sake of uniformity with the Metropolitan Water Supply Act. In practice, valuations based on this part of the Act are invariably calculated at a percentage below the allowable maximum. Minor changes of wording arising out of the amendment of the valuation provisions are contained in clauses 7, 16, 20, 25, 28 (b), and 34 (b) of this Bill.

Section 61 of the Act provides that no appeal against a valuation for rating purposes can be allowed when the valuation does not exceed the current valuation of the same property by the local authority. This provision was used extensively when the department adopted the local authority valuations for its rating purposes. This is not now the case, as the department uses the Taxation valuations; and, in addition, in a number of cases the local authority now uses unimproved capital values. This latter use reveals certain anomalies in that in districts where the local authority uses annual rental values as a basis for valuation, the water ratepayer has the right of appeal only if his valuation is higher than the local authority

valuation; whereas, if the local authority uses unimproved capital values, the ratepayer has an appeal in all cases.

The Metropolitan Water Supply Board has deleted a similar provision in its Act, and it is considered this provision should be deleted from the Country Towns Sewerage Act, thus bringing it into line with a proposed amendment to the Country Areas Water Supply Act.

A number of smaller amendments incorporated in this Bill include the following:—

- (a) Clauses 3, 19, and 29 propose changes of terminology resulting from the reconstitution of local authorities under the Local Government Act, 1960.
- (b) Clause 3 (c) introduces an interpretation of "ratable land", while clause 3 (d) proposes to include definitions of the terms "unimproved capital value" and "valuation" respectively.
- (c) Clause 6 sets out to confer upon the Governor the power to declare land in a sewerage area exempt from rates under the Act, and to declare land exempt from rates to be ratable under the Act. Resulting from this action is a necessary rephrasing of paragraph (h) of section 47 of the principal Act, which is contained in clause 13 of this Bill.
- (d) Clause 29 (b) of this Bill corrects an inconsistency of wording which was brought about by the introduction of the Trustees Act, 1962.
- (e) An amended section 72 of the Act, designed to clarify the position regarding interim valuations of land following improvements, damage, or demolition, is contained in clause 27 of this Bill.

Debate adjourned until Thursday, the 24th September, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Water Supplies) [4.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this amending Bill is to enable the Government to implement its proposals for a uniform charge for water in country areas, and to regularise and streamline administration procedures. The change in the system of charging is the most far-reaching that has ever been made in this State, and I think that we are the only body in Australia that has implemented the principle of allowing no allowance for rates paid. The new charges will be virtually a "pay-for-use" basis, and will operate from Wyndham to Esperance.

The major amendment proposed is in respect of the conditions under which the department at present levies rates. Existing provisions lay down that rates should be levied as follows:—

- (a) If land is situated within a country water area, a rating zone, and a townsite, rating is carried out on an annual value basis; and
- (b) if land is situated within a rating water area of a rating zone but outside a townsite, rating is done on an area basis.

Anomalies have arisen since the transfer of departmental water supplies from the provisions of the Goldfields Water Supply Act and Water Boards Act to the provisions of the Country Areas Water Supply Act. Instances occur where substantial housing subdivisions exist outside townsite boundaries, where there are practically no improved properties within a townsite, and on the Midland Railway Line where about half of at least four towns is built on land formerly subdivided by the Midland Railway Company outside the townsite boundaries.

It is proposed to amend the principal Act to allow rating to be related to the purpose for which water is required. This will mean that farmlands will be rated on an area basis; and other lands, including domestic, trading, and the like, on an annual value basis. To make the suitable amendments, it will be necessary to abolish provisions relating to townsites, country lands, and rating zones.

It is also proposed that greater emphasis be placed on the quantities of water actually used for separate purposes such as domestic residences, offices, shops, etc., being establishments where water is not an essential commodity in processing or manufacturing, trading and industrial concerns using water for processing or manufacturing, mining, market gardens, and orchards; and provision has been made in the Bill for differentiation of rating according to the usage of water.

The new rates and prices will eliminate scores of anomalies and provide a fair and equal basis for the charging of all consumers. Most of them will be on a sliding scale to provide water at reasonable cost to moderate consumers. More would be charged for heavier consumption to encourage care and conservation in the use of water.

On the basis of 1962-63 water consumption, the new charges will result in an additional £31,000 a year loss to the Government; but the further sacrifice of revenue—despite the 1962-63 loss of £2,100,000 on country water—was considered justified as an aid to the introduction of three desirable reforms—uniformity; encouragement of conservation; and a pay-as-you-use system.

A total of 50,897 country water consumers will be affected. Of these, 4,700 are at present unmetered, and will be provided with meters to ensure complete uniformity. However, the present practice of charging a rental on meters will be discontinued. All consumers will receive an explanatory circular with the introduction of the new charges on the 1st January next year. There were a variety of rating years—some beginning in January, and others in July, October, and November—but the new rates and prices will be applied to all of them as from the beginning of 1965.

I will now give an outline of how the new charges compare with the old in each of the six categories of country consumers. At least 90 per cent. of the 35,780 domestic consumers will pay less for their water under the new system. Only the heaviest consumers with the highest value properties are likely to pay a little more.

The new rate will be 1s. 6d. in the pound—equivalent to a rental—and all water consumed will be charged on a pay-as-you-use basis. For the first 60,000 gallons, the price will be 2s. per 1,000. For the next 40,000 gallons it will be 2s. 6d., and for all additional consumption it will be 3s.

By comparison, the rate under the present system is 3s. in the pound—except at Waroona (2s.), Manjimup (2s. 6d.), and Albany (2s. 9d.). There is at present a water allowance calculated on the basis of 1,000 gallons for every 4s. of rates paid in most centres—with 22 exceptions ranging from 2s. at Roebourne and Wagin to 4s. 6d. at Beverley, York, and the goldfields. Excess water is at present charged at the rate of 3s. per 1,000 gallons—with 33 exceptions ranging from 1s. 3d. at Collie to 2s. 9d. at Beverley.

I would like to add here that honourable members should realise from the last few sentences the chaos into which the system has got with ratings such as those mentioned. In the last paragraph alone the fact is revealed that there have been 55 different variations in country water rates.

Under the present system, a consumer with a 60,000 gallon consumption and a £120 annual rental value on his property would pay a total of £18 for water. Under the new system, he would pay £15, comprising £9 in rates and £6 for water used—saving £3. A consumer with 20,000 gallons consumption and £30 annual rental value pays £4 10s. under the present system and £4 5s. under the new—saving 5s. A consumer with a very high 240,000 gallons consumption and an equally high annual rental value of £240 would pay £45 under the present system and £50 under the new. This is an extreme case and most big consumers with valuable properties will face increases of only £1 to £3.

In the category of offices, shops, garages, flats, hotels, etc.—generally where water is not an essential commodity for processing or manufacturing—the 6,500 consumers are at present on the same rating basis as domestic consumers, except that they pay 4s. per 1,000 gallons for excess water in most cases, although some pay other varying charges ranging from 2s. to 7s. Under the new scale, they will all pay a rate of 2s. in the pound. For the first 60,000 gallons, they will pay 2s. per 1,000 gallons; for the next 40,000 gallons they will pay 2s. 6d.; for the next 100,000 gallons they will pay 3s.; and for all additional consumption they will pay 4s.

In regard to trading and industrial concerns—generally where water is an essential commodity in processing or manufacturing—the 390 consumers in this category are at present paying for water on the same basis as offices and shops. Under the new scheme, they will no longer pay rates, but will be charged for all water they use at 4s. per 1,000 gallons.

Under the existing charges, mining and shipping consumers pay no rates. Mines pay for water under varying charges ranging from 3s. 6d. to 7s. per 1,000 gallons. The major consumers—the goldmines at Kalgoorlie and Boulder—pay 5s. 1d. per 1,000 gallons. Charges to shipping consumers range from 3s. to 6s. per 1,000 gallons. Under the new scheme, there will still be no rates, and the water price for both mining and shipping will be 5s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons. There are 17 goldmines in this category, and country harbour authorities around the coast from Esperance to Wyndham.

The 5,800 consumers in the category of farms other than market gardens at present pay a rate of 5d. per acre, with water allowance at 4s. per 1,000 gallons and excess water at the same price. Under the new scheme, they will be rated at 2.4d. per acre. There will be no water allowance, and in its place there will be a pay-as-you-use charge of 2s. per 1,000 gallons for the first 60,000; 2s. 6d. for the next 40,000; and 5s. 6d. thereafter. Generally speaking, this group—in common with mining and shipping consumers—will pay a little more for water.

The 150 market gardeners in the category of market gardens at present pay a rate of 3s. in the pound, with water allowance at 4s. per 1,000 gallons, and excess water at charges ranging between 2s. and 2s. 9d. per 1,000 gallons. Under the new scheme, they will not be rated but will pay a uniform service charge of £5. Instead of a water allowance, they will pay for all water according to use—2s. per 1,000 gallons for the first 60,000 gallons, 2s. 6d. for the next 40,000 gallons, and 3s. thereafter.

In addition to the categories mentioned, there will be 2,260 consumers in a special group who will not be rated, but will pay a uniform £2 service charge and 2s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons for all water used.

Consumers in this category include hospitals, orphan and old-age homes, schools, parks, recreation grounds, clubs, swimming pools, churches, convents, manse, bowling clubs, licensed clubs, Country Women's Association rest rooms, students' hostels, youth clubs, scout groups, racecourses, cemeteries, St. John Ambulance centres, sporting clubs, showgrounds, and fire stations.

Railways will be included under trading and industrial concerns.

State Government departments, municipal establishments, police stations, lodges, and private halls will be included in the same category as offices and shops.

Orchards, pig and poultry farmers, and other farmers of this kind will be classified as market gardeners.

Vacant land which has a water service provided will be rated and charged in accordance with its classification, but where no service is supplied, there will be a uniform charge of £2 per annum.

For standpipes and street water, there will be a charge of 2s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

The present provisions of the Act allow for rating for a part of the year only if there is an alteration in the financial year. It is considered that this power to levy a rate for portion of a year should be allowed for any reasonable purpose, especially when there is the safeguard in the Act that the water rate for that part of the year shall be at the same ratio to the rate for the whole year, as part of the year, for which the rate is made and levied, bears to the whole year.

In the past, in order to rate for a portion of the year for any reason, recourse has been made to temporarily altering the financial year. A recent case was when the Kalamunda water supply was transferred to the Metropolitan Water Supply Board.

Section 58 (1) provides that no appeal against a valuation for rating purposes can be allowed when the valuation does not exceed the current valuation of the same property by the local authority.

This provision was used extensively when the department adopted the local authority valuations for its rating purposes. This is not now the case as the department uses the taxation valuations; and, in addition, in a number of cases the local authorities now use unimproved capital values.

This latter use reveals certain anomalies in that in districts where the local authority uses annual rental values as a basis for valuation, the water-rate payer has only the right of appeal if his valuation is higher

than the local authority valuation; whereas, if the local authority uses unimproved capital values, the ratepayer has an appeal in all cases.

The Metropolitan Water Supply Board has deleted a similar provision in its Act, and it is considered this clause should be deleted from the Country Areas Water Supply Act.

The main effect of the proposals is contained in clauses 14, 15, and 16 of this Bill. The first seeks to amend section 63 of the principal Act, and provides that the Minister may make and levy rates in respect of all ratable land other than farmlands, when such land is situated wholly or partly within 100 yards of any main from which the Minister is prepared to supply water. Similarly, rates may be levied on all ratable farmland, but only to a distance not exceeding one mile and a half from the pipe, when such land is situated wholly or partly within 10 chains of any main.

Clause 15 proposes to amend the principal Act by the insertion of a new section—63A—which provides for the prescribing of classes of purposes for which water may be used and for the classification of ratable land in appropriate classes; and clause 16 proposes to amend section 64 of the Act to provide for rates to be made and levied for each country water area and for different parts of an area, and that they may be varied in respect of any holding or part of a holding.

Several machinery amendments are necessitated by the proposals, as follows:—

- (i) Provision for a country water area to be constituted under the Act in lieu of the previous provision for country water areas to be declared by proclamation.
- (ii) Deletion from the interpretation clause of the principal Act entries relating to the terms "country land," "rating zone," and "town-site," and inclusion of an interpretation of the term "farmland."
- (iii) Substitution of the words "Country water area" in place of the words "rating zone" wherever they appear throughout the Act.
- (iv) Change of the term "country land" to read "farmland" wherever it appears throughout the Act; and
- (v) Insertion of the word "estimated" before all references to "valuation" or "net annual value."

A number of other amendments also proposed by this Bill include the following:—

- (a) Section 15 of the principal Act provides, amongst other formalities to be performed before undertaking the construction of any water works, that a statement be prepared showing the "value of the ratable land" to be

benefited. It is considered that it was always intended that the "estimated ratable value" of the land be shown; and this is, in fact, carried out in current procedure. The amendment proposed in clause 6 of this Bill is submitted to regularise present procedure.

(b) It is proposed that the definition of "ratable land" be removed from the interpretation clause of the principal Act and contained in a new section 46A. At the same time it is necessary to make certain changes to bring the section into line with the similar section of the Country Towns Sewerage Act. At present, because of differences in wording, some properties are exempt from sewerage rating but not from water rating. This amendment is incorporated in clauses 3 (g) and 8 of the Bill.

(c) Section 48 of the Act provides, in subsection (b), that the annual value may be assessed on the yearly rental, less rates, taxes and maintenance. Valuation procedure for some years has been to make a deduction of £40 per centum for rates, taxes and other outgoings, and this provision is, in fact, written into the Metropolitan Water Supply Act. The amendment proposed by clause 9 of this Bill will eliminate the possibility that valuations may be challenged on the score that actual rates and taxes are not allowed in each separate case, and will bring section 48 in line with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water Supply Act.

(d) Clauses 3 (c), 3 (e), 3 (f) and 3 (i) propose changes in terminology resulting from the reconstitution of local authorities under the Local Government Act, 1960.

(e) An amended section 69 of the Act designed to clarify the position regarding interim valuations of land following improvement, damage, or demolition is contained in clause 20 of this Bill.

(f) Clause 6 sets out to confer upon the Governor the power to declare land in a country water area exempt from rates under the Act, and to declare land exempt from rates to be ratable under the Act.

(g) Clause 20 of this Bill corrects an inconsistency of wording which was brought about by the introduction of the Trustees Act, 1962.

Finally, clause 24 of the Bill contains the necessary authority for the Governor to make by-laws to prescribe the purpose and classes of purposes for which water may be used, for the classification of holdings, and for the prescribing of charges for water.

I wish to pay tribute to the honourable members on the Government side of the House who did so much over many months to provide the foundation for the introduction of this measure. They spent many months on the matter and had many meetings; and when the report was placed before me, it became a matter of getting the Treasury officers and accounting officers of the Public Works Department to meet. They spent long hours, on many occasions sitting late into the night, in an endeavour to reach a successful conclusion.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only State in Australia that has got down to a completely pay-as-you-use system for country water rating. As a matter of interest, I have a small paper cutting, which was given to me by the Deputy Premier after he returned from South Australia, showing that South Australia is now following the lead of Western Australia in regard to metropolitan water rating. Members will therefore see that this State, in two of its major activities, is leading the rest of the Commonwealth.

I again pay tribute to all those honourable members who did so much towards ironing out the many problems connected with this matter.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

PRISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th September, on the following motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. BRADY (Swan) [5.5 p.m.]: Since the Bill was introduced, I have endeavoured to study its provisions. It is only a very small Bill, but its impact on an individual at Fremantle gaol could make or break him. From that point of view I have considered all the amending proposals.

I regret that the Minister has had occasion to introduce an amendment. I would have hoped that our social set-up was such that it would help some of those unfortunates at Fremantle to reform or become rehabilitated, rather than having imposed on them the possibility of serving greater sentences.

The original Act was introduced in 1903, and this is now 1964. Over that period—some 60 years—there have been one or two amendments. It would appear that the original architects of the legislation did the job fairly thoroughly. After reading some of the second reading speeches of 1903, I am inclined to think

that the original architects were humane men who realised they were dealing with more than material things; that they were dealing with human beings. They tried to set up an Act which would have regard for the responsibilities of members of Parliament.

I suppose that the average member of Parliament receives anything from two to three times the wages or salaries which many of those unfortunates in Fremantle were receiving before they were sentenced. Many members of Parliament have substantial businesses or professions outside their parliamentary duties. Having regard for those factors, we must give more than passing consideration to the amendments proposed by the Minister.

In 1903—those were the days when it was considered that we had very bad types around; we had not got out of the convict stage—the people who designed the Act had this to say about the section which the Minister is now proposing to amend—

Upon complaint made before a Magistrate or any two Justices of the Peace against any prisoner charged with an aggravated prison offence, as hereinafter defined, such Magistrate or Justices shall inquire into and determine the matter of the complaint, and the offender shall be liable on conviction—

- (1) To be confined in a punishment cell (and, if a male, either with or without irons) for any term not exceeding one calendar month, and to be fed upon bread and water only for any time not exceeding fourteen days; or
- (2) If a male offender, to receive corporal punishment as prescribed; or
- (3) To be removed to a lower class; or
- (4) To be suspended for a time without actual removal from the privileges of his class; or
- (5) To be kept at hard labour, if not already sentenced to hard labour; or
- (6) To forfeit, in addition to any such punishment, remission of sentence earned for any period not exceeding one year.

At the time that proposal was put forward, T. H. Bath, speaking in this House in 1903, had this to say—

Clause 38 details what are to be deemed aggravated prison offences; and among these, in subclause (8) we find "pretending illness." Then clause 36 provides that a person charged with an aggravated prison offence may be confined in a solitary cell for any time

not exceeding one month, or if a male offender, may receive corporal punishment as prescribed. Now I think that such a punishment for pretending illness is altogether too severe. Instances have been brought under my notice of prisoners really ill having been deemed by brutal warders to be only shamming illness and sentenced to solitary confinement or to bread-and-water or other forms of punishment; and there have been cases of warders actually kicking a prisoner and brutally assaulting him because he was really ill.

That honourable member went on to say he thought, in the circumstances, the wording which I read earlier should be deleted; and apparently the wisdom of the legislators of the day prevailed, and the words were removed.

He also went on to say that many of the people who were in gaol were sick people, and no doubt he meant mentally sick as well as physically sick. As the Minister is proposing, after 50 years, to amend the principal Act, it is regrettable that he is not amending it in such a way as to make the penalties less harsh.

It is difficult to know whether our methods of reforming prisoners have been as effective as we would like; but it would seem the Minister has been faced with a problem because in March there was a determined gaol break by four prisoners. The justice, when trying the men for the gaol break, found that he had to give them all the same penalty, even though one man had actually assaulted a warder.

To that extent I sympathise with the Minister in his difficulties; because if one of the men assaulted a warder, and he was given only the same penalty as the others, it seems to be unfair. However, at the same time, I think we have to be logical about the whole matter and realise that the Minister has tried to assist some of these prisoners with their rehabilitation.

Like the late Hon. J. M. Drew, who was Chief Secretary in a Labor Government, and who established the Pardelup Prison Farm, and a subsequent Chief Secretary who established Barton's Mill, the present Chief Secretary has seen fit to establish a place called Karnet where, in addition to prisoners being rehabilitated, alcoholics can be cared for. When I was Minister for Police I recommended to the then Chief Secretary (The Hon. G. Fraser) that he give consideration to taking over Holyoake as a place of reform and an establishment where prisoners could follow agricultural pursuits. However, that proposition was not agreed to.

I visited Fremantle gaol several times while I was Minister for Police, and I can remember taking one of my fellow Ministers in the Labor Government down to

see it. He felt ill for a week after he had been there, so depressing is the whole outlook at the gaol. While it is depressing for those who visit it, there are many difficulties from the point of view of the inmates, inasmuch as sometimes there are 40 or 50 of them working in a very confined area, and they are forced to associate with one another. As a result, they can plot, and plan, and think, and do things together which, as individuals, they might not even contemplate.

I have had people come to me, after being released from Fremantle gaol, and say they had been hounded by men who were at the gaol at the same time as they were there; and, as a result, they could not rehabilitate themselves. Some of them said they had been threatened by the C.I.B., because it was said they were consorting with criminals, and if they did not do something about it they would be sent back to the gaol once more.

I think the Chief Secretary would be the first one to admit that things are not all that could be desired at the Fremantle gaol, and that there is a certain amount of overcrowding. Probably owing to a lack of funds, the Minister is not able to do all that he would like to do. However, when considering an amendment to the principal Act, we should bear in mind the fact—and I say God forbid that it should ever happen!—that some of our relatives may be there at some time; and, consequently, we should do all we can for those who are there. I have had occasion in recent years to have men released who, in my opinion, should never have been there in the first place. Yet if they were associated with somebody in a gaol break they could be in a very serious position.

By and large there must be discipline at the gaol, and prisoners cannot be encouraged to indulge in gaol breaks; because not only does it upset the whole prison system but it also upsets the community generally. When a gaol break occurs, every second woman in the metropolitan area is concerned about what might happen, and this fear persists until the prisoners are caught. So the Minister must have discipline at the gaol. At the same time, I say to him, "Don't forget there are times when there are sadists about and some of those sadists could be warders."

For that reason I am not anxious to go along with the Minister the whole of the way, in regard to his proposals; but I will go with him part of the way so that those who assault warders can receive heavier penalties than those who only attempt to break out of gaol. After all, penalties for an attempted gaol break are laid down in the Act, and there is also the added penalty, if men like to take that risk, of their being shot.

At one stage I thought the Minister was without a sense of humour when he framed the Bill; because sometimes a man is taking the biggest risk of all when he attempts a gaol break—that of a warder shooting at him and blowing his brains out. After all, if a man does not get away with a gaol break he has faced a double penalty—his gaol break has been foiled and he has taken the risk of being shot.

I am prepared to support the second reading so that the Minister can discipline some of these people who become fractious and try to run the whole community; but I will attempt to water down the penalty that a man can be given over and above his existing sentence, from six months to three months, where he attempts to assault a warder or commits a further misdemeanour.

Mr. Craig: Do you sympathise with the offender?

Mr. BRADY: If the Minister will take the trouble to read the Act, instead of interjecting like that, he will see there are people down there who are very sympathetically disposed to the prisoners. There are some people who try to help prisoners; but there are also prisoners who do not try to help themselves. I said there are good and bad in Fremantle gaol, and unfortunately there are some who should not be there at all.

Mr. Craig: Why are they put there?

Mr. BRADY: They are there because they are not in a position to defend themselves. I made the point earlier—and I thank the Minister for his interjection—that nothing has been done in this State to help the natives to appreciate their position as citizens in the community—nothing has been done by the Prisons Department, the Education Department, or any other department—and yet many of the prisoners in the Fremantle gaol at the moment are natives.

If the Minister checks his records he will find that many natives have been connected with gaol breaks, and they are continually breaking out of lockups, because they do not appreciate the value of reform and rehabilitation. These people must be encouraged. They become unemployed; and, in many cases, they cannot get any social service benefits. There is nothing for them to eat and they have to live somehow. If they happen to commit an offence they are imprisoned in Fremantle gaol and come in contact with some hardened criminal who, perhaps, encourages them to break out, following which they make an attempt to break out.

There are, of course, other men who break out of gaol for other reasons. I can recall one prisoner who was behaving himself quite well until another man joined him in the gaol and he told this prisoner that his wife was carrying on with an ex-prisoner. As a result, this man broke out and gave the man who was carrying on with his wife a hiding, and was quite prepared to return to Fremantle gaol.

I can recall another man being brought down from York after being charged with an offence, but he was acquitted. Nevertheless, he could have quite easily been imprisoned in Fremantle gaol on a miscarriage of justice. These people have to be considered. I know of other cases. With the tightening up of our laws, the doubling of the penalties, the great drive for hire-purchase sales, and with the operations of unscrupulous racketeers in various organisations and businesses, it is surprising that there are not more people in Fremantle gaol than there are now.

Mr. Curran: One has almost to be a crook to live.

Mr. BRADY: As the honourable member for Cockburn has said, one has almost to be a crook to live; but, by and large, I do not believe that. There are some people, however, who are driven to distraction; and who, in a confused state of mind, commit various offences. In recent times, for example, two young men approached me and told me that they had their cars insured against accident, and yet both of them were denied insurance payments following an accident. One of these young men was told that he had not properly maintained his vehicle, and the other was informed that he should not have been driving a car whilst taking drugs. Although that young man was sick and was obtaining the drugs by prescription from his doctor, he was threatened by the insurer that he would not receive his insurance payments, and as far as I know he has not yet received those payments.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I hope the honourable member can relate his remarks to the Bill.

Mr. BRADY: It is happenings such as these that drive young men into committing acts that they would not ordinarily commit. I know how I would feel if I was told I would not receive my insurance payments after I had been paying my insurance premium for many years. Therefore we must be considerate and not be too hard on these people. We should realise that there is another side apart from the official side in Fremantle gaol. I support the second reading; but, as I said earlier, in the Committee stage I will move an amendment to reduce the penalty from six months to three months.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [5.23 p.m.]: As the honourable member has supported the second reading, there is no need for me to speak at length in replying to the debate. I would like to point out, however, that the Bill has been presented, in the main, because of the strong representations made to me by the Gaol Officers' Union. When we consider in Committee the amendment that has been foreshadowed by the honourable member for Swan, surely the honourable member for Fremantle and the honourable member for Cockburn will oppose it and support the Bill.

Mr. Heal: Why?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: For reasons I have already advanced in my second reading speech. One of the prime responsibilities of prison staff is to ensure that prison discipline is maintained in an endeavour to prevent escapes. Also, from time to time the safety of the warders themselves is endangered by the lawlessness of the prisoners; and unless strict discipline is enforced and warders are able to exercise their powers in the knowledge that there are deterrent factors imposed with a view to preventing prisoners from escaping, the welfare and safety of warders is jeopardised, as well as the safety and welfare of members of the general public.

I will listen with interest to the honourable member for Swan when he introduces his amendment in Committee, but I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair; Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 36 amended—

Mr. BRADY: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 19—Delete the word "six" with a view to substituting the word "three".

As I have already said during the second reading stage, section 36 already contains severe penalties against any prisoner who kicks over the traces at Fremantle gaol. The penalties prescribed are as follows:—

To be confined in a punishment cell (and, if a male, either with or without irons) for any term not exceeding one calendar month, and to be fed upon bread and water only for any time not exceeding fourteen days; or

If a male offender, to receive corporal punishment as prescribed; or

To be removed to a lower class; or

To be suspended for a time without actual removal from the privileges of his class; or

To be kept at hard labour, if not already sentenced to hard labour; or

To forfeit, in addition to any such punishment, remission of sentence earned for any period not exceeding one year.

As I said to the Minister earlier, there is ample penalty in that section if the department or the Comptroller-General of Prisons wants to use it; but now the Minister seeks to give the prisoner another six months' imprisonment for any misdemeanour. We should try to be a little merciful towards these people. Apparently this represents the desire on the part of the Minister to try to have something over and above the punishment prescribed in case of an assault on a warder. Repeatedly I hear of people being assaulted in the streets, but the punishment that is meted out to the offenders amounts to only a £5 or a £10 fine.

Mr. Craig: You will be supporting the Police Act to increase penalties?

Mr. BRADY: Is the Minister for Police looking after this Bill, or is it being handled by the Chief Secretary? The penalty for assault in the town is £5, £10, or £15, or in default three days for each pound. Now the Minister wants an additional penalty of six months. I agree there should be an additional penalty; and it might be a good thing to point this out to the 300 or 400 men in the Fremantle gaol to remind them that because of some of the stupid people there their sentences will be increased by six months. I ask the Minister to see that everyone in Fremantle gaol gets a copy of the Act. If that is done it might make them think twice about breaking gaol, particularly in view of this extra penalty.

The Act was introduced 50 years ago; and even in those days members realised the sadistic approach of some people charged with the administration of justice, and asked for certain words to be deleted; and they were deleted. I have had occasion to sit on the bench; and there was one person not very far from the electorate of the member for Toodyay whom I got released. We must temper justice with mercy. That is what I am trying to do.

I hope the Minister will accept an additional sentence of three months as being sufficient to make people realise they must toe the line. I remember that on one occasion I sentenced a man to Fremantle

gaol and recommended that he be given hospital treatment. On following this up later, I found he was not given hospital treatment. That is the sort of thing that happens. I hope the Minister will accept my amendment.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I must oppose the amendment. The honourable member for Swan is trying to show himself in a humanitarian light.

Mr. Brady: I am not trying to do that. If that were the case I could have gone down to Fremantle gaol and had my photograph taken by the A.B.C.

Mr. Curran: What is wrong with the humanitarian approach anyway?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: When I introduced the measure, I tried to point out there was a necessity to increase penalties in the Act in order to deter lawless types from making unprovoked assaults on warders during escapes. This has been done very largely at the strong request of the Gaol Officers' Union.

Mr. Brady: Will you always do what the Gaol Officers' Union wants?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No. Many representations are made to me, but I do not always agree with them. These, however, were evaluated; and after considering the facts surrounding the various circumstances I decided it was appropriate to introduce amending legislation. This amending legislation brings deterrent penalties for aggravated prison sentences more into line with the other States of Australia.

The intention of the honourable member does not make sense. At present under the Act a man can be given a month's imprisonment in the cells and loss of remissions for one year. In the past the remissions have amounted to 91 days. So there is a total of four months that could be given. I am proposing six months cumulative. Something like this is needed.

Very shortly the Probation and Parole Act will be introduced; and when this comes in, the loss of remissions will amount to 36 days. So any deterrent effect will be completely lost unless some action is taken. Unless we accept this Bill we will tend to breach good order and discipline in the prison.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4 put and passed.

(39)

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Forests) [5.41 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bush Fires Act at present provides that of the six nominees of the Country Shire Councils' Association, at least three shall be actively engaged in the business of farming.

It is proposed to increase the number of persons so engaged, to provide for at least five who will also be required to be actively engaged in any organisation for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of bush fires, and in any bushfire brigade established under part 4 of the Bush Fires Act.

As the present Act does not provide for term appointments, the Bill also includes a provision to the effect that members of the Bush Fires Board, other than the chairman, shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

The final amendment is to section 18 of the Act, and it alters the word "shall" to "may" in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (4), which revolves around compulsion on a local authority to schedule burning times for the purpose of developing or clearing land. This amendment will restore the conditions which applied before the passing of the 1963 Bill.

The preparation of a schedule of burning times, or "programme burning" has been practised by shires since the inception of the Act, and operated satisfactorily before the 1963 amendment. It was intended that the compulsory provision for "programme burning" should be applied by local authorities to meet local conditions. However, shire councils have expressed concern that, because of fixed requirements of the Act, legal problems could arise if a liberal interpretation of this section were made.

As the position was satisfactory prior to the 1963 amendment it is considered desirable in the interests of local administration that the proposed amendment be adopted.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Rowberry.

PARKS AND RESERVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [5.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Sections 22, 13 (2), and 13 of Reserves Acts, 1952, 1955, and 1959 respectively, empower the King's Park Board to grant a lease of Perth Town Lots 772, 786, and 801 which are portions of King's Park, for the purpose of a tearooms site.

The word "tearoom" does not appear in either the Shorter Oxford Dictionary or Webster's International Dictionary, but in the Oxford English Dictionary the definition of "tea place" is given as "a place in which a light meal, at which tea is commonly served, may be procured."

For the information of honourable members, the City of Perth Health By-laws (*Government Gazette* No. 2 of the 7th January, 1958) are as follows:—

Health By-Laws—Eating Houses— Amendment.

WHEREAS under the provisions of the Health Act, 1911-1956, a local authority may make by-laws and may amend, repeal or alter any by-laws so made: Now, therefore, the Council of the City of Perth, being a local authority, doth hereby order that Clause 2 of the by-laws relating to eating houses published in the *Government Gazette* on the 9th day of January, 1948, be amended by deleting the definition "tearoom" and by substituting the following new definition in lieu thereof, namely:—

"Tearoom" means any eating house where the only foods served for consumption on the premises are tea, coffee, and similar beverages, cakes, biscuits, pastries, pies, pasties and such other prepared foods (including meat patties and fish patties) as are usually supplied by wholesale pastrycooks, sandwiches (open, closed or toasted), toast, cold salads, cold meats, sav-
eloyes, boiled eggs, and prepared beef tea and other extracts or soups, baked beans, spaghetti, sweet corn, sardines and savory mince, which are supplied by the manufacturer in tins or bottles ready for consumption, but where no

food is cooked on the premises, provided that the boiling of an egg shall not be deemed cooking.

Passed by the Council of the City of Perth, at the ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 26th day of August, 1957.

(L.S.)

H. R. HOWARD,
Lord Mayor.

W. A. McI. GREEN,
Town Clerk.

Recommended—

E. NULSEN,
Minister for Health.

Approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, this 19th day of December, 1957.

R. H. DOIG,
Clerk of the Council.

However, the actual function of the King's Park tearooms is, without doubt, that of a restaurant, and it has been generally accepted as such. Current hours of operation throughout the whole of the year are—

Weekdays—10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

and

Sundays—10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Meals are prepared and served on the premises *a la carte*.

Total seating capacity at any one meal is approximately 300, the average daily patronage covering summer, autumn, winter, and spring seasons, being about 400.

This catering establishment in King's Park provides an essential community service, and it was not until a recent application to the Licensing Court for a restaurant liquor license that it was generally realised the establishment was not designated a "restaurant."

It is considered desirable that the King's Park Board should be vested with the authority to lease the area for the purpose of a "restaurant." It is to be clearly understood, however, that this Bill does not in any way provide for a restaurant liquor license. This matter is one entirely for the State Licensing Court to decide, and it is not the Government's desire or intention to influence that court in any consideration it will be required to give to this matter.

Mr. Graham: Just open the gate.

MR. BOVELL: It will be of interest to honourable members that in June, 1958, the King's Park Board approved the application of lessees of the catering establishment to permit the consumption of liquor with meals. Conditions were that the

liquor to be consumed must be brought there by the patrons and must be consumed on the premises, and only during meal hours. This practice has continued without untoward incident.

The King's Park Board is composed of highly responsible and well-respected citizens, including Sir Thomas Meagher, K.B., K.St.J., J.P., M.B., B.S. (President); Mr. G. K. Baron-Hay, C.B.E., M.C., B.Sc. (Agric.), J.P. (Deputy President); Mr. Q. R. Stow, barrister and solicitor; Professor B. J. Grieve, M.Sc. (Melb.) Ph.D., D.I.C. (Lond.), F.L.S.; and Mr. S. Heal, M.L.A. for Perth.

The lease of the catering establishment is the responsibility of the King's Park Board, which can be relied upon to see that its provisions are strictly complied with and that the service provided conforms to the highest possible standards.

In conclusion, I would again emphasise that this measure is for the purpose of clearly defining the function of the premises; namely, that of a "restaurant".

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. H. May.

House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 22nd September, 1964

CONTENTS

BILLS—

	Page
Agriculture Protection Board Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
Cancer Council of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1044
Cemeteries Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
Chiropractors Bill—2r.	1045
Electoral Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
As to Third Reading	1048
Suspension of Standing Orders	1049
Health Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
Inquiry Agents Licensing Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1044
Presbyterian Church Acts Amendment Bill—2r.	1049
Com.; Report	1050
Prisons Act Amendment Bill—Receipt; 1r.	1049
Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Amendment Bill—Receipt; 1r.	1049

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Crown Lands—	
Classifications Recommended	1043
Inspections by Tribunal	1043
Pastoral Leases—	
Regeneration Costs in Northern Territory	1044
Regeneration of Vestey's Properties	1044
Soil Conservation Advisory Committee: Tabling of Reports and Minutes	1044

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

CROWN LANDS

Inspections by Tribunal

- The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Local Government:

Will the Minister inform the House—

- What was the total area of land inspected and reported upon by the Crown Lands Tribunal?

Classifications Recommended

- What area of land was recommended as—
 - Agricultural land;
 - State forest;
 - timber reserve;
 - water catchment; and
 - other purposes?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- 472,640 acres.
- (i) 57,314 acres immediate release.
15,800 acres after resumption from pastoral leases or cancellation of grazing leases.
8,130 acres after cancellation of reserves.
60,629 acres after removal of marketable timber.
Total under (b) (i) 141,873 acres.
- (ii) 136,943 acres.
- (iii) 100,998 acres under Forest Act.
60,755 acres under Land Act.
Total under (b) (iii) 161,753 acres.
- (iv) None specifically.
Included in areas for State Forest.
- (v) 32,071 acres.

Further areas are currently being investigated, but reports are not yet complete.