

out which when it builds up enough causes the waves to break further out and, therefore, protects the land. During the summer months there is a reverse movement. The beach tends to become built up and the sand tends to go back to the dunes, especially if there is vegetation on the dunes because vegetation catches the sand. So a reservoir of sand is formed for the next winter. In this way we see there is a beautiful equilibrium in nature which we destroy when we build on the foredunes.

I think building on the foredunes has caused about 90 per cent of the problem in Mandurah or anywhere else where this erosion has occurred. I feel we should take a firm stand on this.

I hope the Government—and the Minister for Local Government in particular—will make a statesmanlike decision with regard to the Whitfords nodes. I have become very interested in this area, and I think the Wanneroo Shire Council deserves the greatest credit for the stand it has taken on the issue of development west of the highway. As I said, I would hope the Minister for Local Government will show himself at his statesmanlike best and arrange a transfer or swapping of land so that the Whitfords nodes will not be built upon. If they are built upon we will experience the same problem that we are experiencing on other parts of the coast.

Mr Rushton: Have you studied the background to this?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes, I have spent quite a deal of time on it. As I said, I am very impressed with the Wanneroo Shire Council and I am hoping that in the near future we will see the Government taking the step I have suggested.

Mr Rushton: That is contrary to the recommendation of your own previous State Government.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am well aware of the full details of that. The question of roads parallel to the coast is something we should be careful about. A great deal of work has been done on this, so there is no excuse for ignorance or for building roads parallel and close to the coast.

I had intended to deal with many arguments in detail, but somehow time seems to have disappeared. I emphasise that as far as I am concerned I will applaud the Government if it comes up with a sound ecological decision regarding the Whitfords nodes. I hope that right along our coast we will endeavour not to make the terrible mistakes that have already been made by allowing the foredunes to be built upon and used to the ultimate deprivation of the whole of the coast.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.03 p.m.*

MR NANOVIČ (Toodyay) [4.03 p.m.]: Mr Speaker and honourable members, I rise for the first time in this Chamber as the member representing the electorate of

Toodyay in this Western Australian Parliament. Firstly, I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the office of Speaker of this House. I am sure, Sir, that the many years of devoted service you have given to this Parliament and to the State in general will assist you in setting a fine example during your term as Speaker of this Assembly.

I also congratulate the member for Kalamunda on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. Further, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier, his Deputy, and his Ministers on their appointment, together with the Leader of the Opposition, his deputy, and other newly-elected members. In addition I offer my special thanks to the Clerks and officers of this House and I express my appreciation to past members for the services they have rendered to their respective electorates.

When I was elected as a member of this Assembly it was not with the ambition that I should become the best member of Parliament. However, I do not have any ambition to be placed in the position of someone being able to say that I am the worst member. I have been elected by the people to work for them and for the two years and eight months that remain of the term for which I have been elected I will work hard for the welfare and benefit of my electors and the State of Western Australia in general.

People throughout all walks of life generally aim at achieving the ideal, but sometimes this is extremely difficult. Nevertheless, I think all of us try to do our best. Sometimes we may nearly reach the ideal and so become satisfied.

My intention today is to speak broadly on matters affecting my electorate which embraces Wanneroo, Upper Swan, Herne Hill, Bullsbrook, Chittering, Bindoon, Muchea, Wannamal, Toodyay, Gidgegannup, and Chidlow. From the southern boundary the electorate extends some 70 miles to the north and 53 miles east to the town of Toodyay.

As I continue to travel through my electorate and become acquainted with the problems with which it is faced, I sincerely hope and trust that during my term as its representative I will be able to work to the benefit of the people residing within my electorate so that they may, with confidence, return me to office for another term of three years.

Starting with the southern section, which is Wanneroo, I could say that I know more about Wanneroo than the remainder of the Toodyay electorate. Nevertheless I have not wasted any time in trying to ascertain the problems that beset those who reside in other parts of the district. Wanneroo covers some 306 square miles. From the southern boundary to the northern boundary is a distance of 39

miles, and from the eastern boundary to the western boundary is a distance of eight miles. The southern part of the shire is rapidly developing into an urban sprawl, and it is also found that development is spreading along the coast northwards.

Today, in the Shire of Wanneroo, there are some 11 districts and five or six townships, but many more are in the course of development. One of the local industries is vegetable growing. Another is chicken and poultry production. If I may, I will draw the attention of members to vegetable production in this area. Without boasting, I can say that some of the best vegetables in the world are produced in this coastal strip. I know there are other vegetable producing centres in this State, but within this coastal strip vegetables of all types are produced during 12 months of the year. I would point out, of course, that it has available to it a good water supply which is a most important factor in the production of first-class vegetables which are consumed not only by the people of the State and the Commonwealth in general, but also through export trade, by people overseas.

On many occasions it has been said that products from Western Australia, and particularly those that are grown within this region, are among the finest in the world. Therefore I believe every endeavour should be made to encourage even greater production of these perishables.

In speaking of the poultry and chicken industry, I would point out that this industry, within my electorate, has grown enormously in the past decade. I think I can say that the production of chickens and poultry within the Wanneroo area would be the most concentrated compared to any other area in this State. This fact must be recognised by Governments so that every endeavour shall be taken to encourage greater production of these lines.

The nursery industry is also flourishing within the district of Wanneroo. I can recall when, only eight or nine years ago, there was only one nursery in Wanneroo, but today nurseries are rapidly being established throughout the whole district. Further, those who are establishing them have shown no desire to keep close to the metropolitan area. They have developed these retail nurseries in good soil with the advantage of a good water supply, and thus first-class production of plants is assured.

Within the Shire of Wanneroo is also a limited number of vineyards and wine-making establishments. For a number of years within this district vineyards have existed and have produced an excellent product. However, today the vineyards are producing less and less in view of the limited profit that is being derived from the industry.

The district of Wanneroo also contains a number of quarries which produce building stone and aggregate for the construction of roads not only locally but throughout the rest of the State. These quarries employ many men. Sheep and beef are also produced to a limited degree, but all these industries are most important to the Wanneroo district, because the people employed in them are among those who are the backbone of Western Australia.

I continue my speech by referring to the development of the urban section of the Wanneroo Shire which, six years ago, employed approximately 20 people apart from those employed in administration and on the outside staff. Today the shire employs approximately 300 people. Six years ago its revenue amounted to \$300 000, but today its revenue exceeds \$4 million. This gives members some indication of how the shire has expanded, and this is an area which represents a large portion of my electorate and contains the major part of the population.

I have no doubt that the people living in this area will become beset with many problems in the future, but I hope that steps will be taken to ensure that they do not reach any magnitude. I am sure we all agree that at all times prevention is better than cure. It is certainly my intention to strive to achieve many improvements and benefits for my constituents, and among such improvements I would include regional centres.

In the southern section of the Wanneroo district there is an area of approximately 120 hectares which has been designated open space under the metropolitan region town planning scheme. The land is still owned by the State Housing Commission, having been resumed many years ago. It will be my aim to have that land set aside for recreational purposes. A few years ago approaches were made to the Government by the local authority, in conjunction with the City of Stirling, in an effort to have the land vested in the Crown or the local authority so that it could be developed as a major recreational area to provide training venues for sporting organisations, educational facilities, and lecture halls, for both the young and the old.

I think the trend today is to provide only for the young but we have to remember that we are getting on in years ourselves and that some provision must be made so that we can enjoy some comfort in the years to come. The development of such a centre would benefit people living north of the river. I know that it is difficult to acquire land for such purposes but the Government of the day should give every consideration to proposals put forward by a local authority which is prepared to go almost to the limit in order to provide for

future needs. I am a great believer in planning for the future, but not for the next 100 years.

The present-day society should not have to suffer in order to provide for future generations. There should be a compromise and balance so that all generations can enjoy the facilities which are provided.

It is my intention, at an early date, in conjunction with both the local authorities concerned, to approach the Government with regard to that piece of land at Wanneroo. I am sure many people will derive enjoyment from facilities in that area if the opportunity is afforded them.

I will now comment further on the coastal strip referred to by the member for Morley, known as the nodes—not toads, but nodes. I am sure members are aware of the meaning of "node". In this case it concerns an area of land which has been cut off by the West Coast Highway and stretches from Sorrento to Mullaloo Beach. The area of the land is approximately 70 hectares, of which 30 hectares are still owned by the developer.

The original concept was to develop all the land on the west side of the West Coast Highway. Although a large proportion of the land has been vested in the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, it is felt that the remaining area should also be vested in the Crown for future recreational development. Recreational land should be utilised to the best advantage of all people concerned. I intend to approach the Government with a proposal to exchange land with the developer so that the coastal strip can be retained for future generations. It is estimated that by 1980 approximately 125 000 people will reside in that region. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority recently announced its intention to set aside some 1 600 hectares which will stretch north from Lake Coollelal to Lake Joondalup and Burns Beach Road.

The intention is sound but when recreational areas are set aside it is important that no burden should be placed on the shoulders of the present landowners. The present owners would have purchased the land in good faith on which to build homes and from which, perhaps, to derive a living. If the Government accepts the recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority it will be my intention to see that those who live in the area and those who produce vegetables, poultry, and grapes are either given an opportunity to move to an alternative site of equal value, or be compensated fully for the work they have done on their properties.

Urban development is extending to the Yancheep and Two Rocks area, where the Bond Corporation has embarked on a plan of massive development and expenditure.

I am sure that many people will eventually appreciate the type of development which is now taking place there. Towards the coastline there is the area of Mullaloo which, for some years, has been classed as a holiday settlement. Perhaps it was a holiday settlement a decade ago but the money now being spent on homes in the Mullaloo area is producing a locality which would be a credit to any community, and also a credit to the State of Western Australia.

However, the area to which I have referred is the only pocket of urban development which is not served with reticulated water. As a result of a deputation, only yesterday, to the State Government, the local authority, and the responsible department, every endeavour will be made to supply water at the earliest possible date.

The population explosion within the region has meant that the schools are overcrowded and the children do not receive the standard of education to which they are entitled. It was not thought that the population expansion would be so great in such a short time but the attendance at the Wanneroo school is already 900 children and by the fourth term, next year, the attendance will exceed 1 000 children. It is my opinion that the children are not receiving enough attention and the number of schools in the area should be increased.

I have recently read a report concerning hospitals. I agree that if everybody decided he did not want to be sick we would require maternity hospitals only! I was appalled to read in the report that only one hospital was envisaged and that was west of Joondalup. It was approaching the planning stage. There is no plan for any additional hospitals for many years. However, by 1980 we expect a population of 125 000 people within this region and, therefore, every endeavour must be made to speed up the provision of facilities such as hospitals.

As I said earlier, I support the principle of planning but I do not support planning for 100 years ahead. I reiterate that today's society should not go short in order to provide for future generations. However, every endeavour must be made to expedite development, and more than one hospital should be planned for the region.

I will now refer to decentralisation. Just north of the Wanneroo boundary, which is a portion of my electorate, there are the settlements of Bullsbrook, Chittering, Muchea, Bindoon, and Wannamal. They are all small townships but they are most important because they provide a good background to the economy of the State. The RAAF station at Pearce is also important to the State, and to Australia in general. Encouragement must be given to the people who live in those areas.

People purchase land with the idea of working it in order to have something to hand down to future generations, and this is most important. Such facilities as schools of higher grades should be available to people who experience difficulties in providing higher standards of education for their children. The physical effort necessary by the parents of these children to get them to school is too great to be sustained. Many parents are having to board their children. The children living in the Bullsbrook area cannot go beyond third year at the high school. Of course, the parents would like to see a senior high school provided. It is certainly required in this area because many children are travelling up to 96 miles a day in an endeavour to obtain a better education.

It is appalling that the people living within these catchment areas are suffering so many disadvantages. Everything is directed and generated towards the city. It is felt that perhaps some of the city people could compromise also. We frequently talk about decentralisation, and there would be nothing wrong with children from the Swan area travelling by bus to Pearce or Bullsbrook for secondary education. This would be a much safer and more comfortable route to travel than the present routes travelled by children from the outlying districts. Every endeavour must be made to see that these benefits are forthcoming for children in the outer areas. I feel that at present the State is suffering a loss of talent because of the lack of higher education in the country.

I would like to speak now of the Swan Valley and Herne Hill area which is noted for its vineyards. A few small businesses operate within this area, as well as a brick manufacturer on its fringe. Other activities in the area include stud farmers, dairying, and light engineering works—all most important to our State.

We have heard much talk about the character of the valley. What is more important—the character of an area or the people living in it? I feel it is the people. I referred earlier to the vineyards in the area, but I point out that winegrowing returns a small margin of profit only. The grapes are harvested only once a year, and the wine is made at this time. Many of the vignerons work in other occupations as well in order to help to develop their properties over a number of years.

After many years of hard work to develop his property, a vigneron may wish to retire. He does not want to leave the area, so he applies to subdivide his land so that he may keep his house and a few acres. However, the invariable reply is that he cannot do this because it will upset the character of the valley.

There is much work to be done during the season in the vineyards, and many times these properties become family concerns. If no family members are available

to do the work, salaries must be paid and the margin of profit is reduced even more. Ultimately this will destroy the character of the valley because the vignerons will give up their vineyards and we will find them turned into horse-training facilities—the valley will no longer be productive. When proposals are put forward to enable farming and industry of this type to continue, every consideration must be given to those concerned.

Many of the farmers feel that the area of reticulated water could be enlarged. I know this can be achieved with contributory schemes.

It is most important that we continue to encourage the productivity of the vineyards, and I know that some new vineyards are being established on the outer fringes of the valley. We know that we cannot stand in the way of development, but every consideration should be given to these people who have developed the vineyards in the valley.

I would like now to turn to the area of Toodyay, including the small townships of Gidgegannup and Chidlow. When we think of Toodyay we immediately think of a lovely, lush farming area, but wine grapes are grown also. A small abattoir was operating in the area until recently, and I hope that after approaches to and negotiations with the departments concerned, the abattoir will commence operations again.

Toodyay has rather a small population, but the shire has worked very hard over the past few years in an endeavour to have it declared a tourist area. The old gaol is of historical interest, and we should make every endeavour to assist the local authority to achieve its aims.

Even when one family leaves Toodyay, it causes consternation amongst the businesses within the township, and therefore we must endeavour to encourage more people to move into the area. Subdivisions have been approved over recent years, and people buying these properties feel they can make a go of them. An important factor which is depriving the people of Toodyay of advantages is the lack of a good, quick transport system. Toodyay is situated in such a position that a transport system could be utilised on an everyday basis. Such a system would serve the needs of these people.

It is felt that it is not hopeless to encourage industry to the area, and endeavours should be made to this end. A boy or girl leaving school has to look for work in the city or perhaps at Northam unless he or she works on the family property. Northam is not a great distance away, but when people go there to work it offsets the balance required for a place like Toodyay.

The families in the area are also disadvantaged because the older children have to board away from home to achieve an education.

I have covered broadly the needs and requirements of my electorate, and I have also drawn attention to its beneficial activities. I will now digress a little to talk about local government. I had the privilege of being involved with local government for a period of some 12 years. We all tend to use local government, and particularly when one is a member of the State Parliament one often says, "Consult your shire clerk or your shire president." Local government is of tremendous importance in our daily lives.

What are the responsibilities of local government? It is said that local authorities build roads, check septic tanks, pass building plans, and control fly-breeding spots in rural and urban areas and that this is their sole responsibility. This idea is quite incorrect. Local government plays an important part in our everyday lives. Many of the benefits flowing from State Government decisions come to the people through local government.

Many qualified officers are employed in local government, but then responsibility is taken away from these people. Applications are made to Government departments for decisions in many matters which are well within the scope of the qualified officers working in local government.

Let us look for a moment at planning—a most important factor in the development of our State as well as for its residents and future residents. Planning is also important to businesses and urban development. Qualified people in local government prepare comprehensive town planning schemes. These schemes are then accepted by the Government and legislation is passed and they become law. I believe that such legislation should be administered by the local authority responsible for the original preparation. Qualified people in local government should make decisions about subdivisions within the original scheme. Instead the local authorities must seek approval from the Town Planning Board. I am not criticising the competence of this board, but I feel we should have more confidence in the people employed by local authorities. Once a comprehensive scheme is adopted and becomes law, town planning should divorce itself from the development completely. More responsibility should be given to local government rather than taken from it.

Building, engineering, gardening, traffic, and health, are all linked with local government. Government departments serve the needs of the ratepayers but they sometimes overlook the efforts of local government and its importance to the people of the community. Refuse is a major problem today, and during the short period I have been in the House, I have heard members refer to the problem associated with the disposal of waste.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has three minutes to go.

Mr NANOVICH: Have I been talking as long as that, Mr Speaker? I feel there should be an all-out effort to assist local authorities in their endeavours to secure better means of contact, better facilities and better liaison in order that they might communicate better with the people through their efforts and the responsibilities they have placed on them.

I feel we should endeavour to eliminate certain approvals which at the moment must be sought from the Government departments, because the local authorities themselves have experts who can carry out efficiently the duties in question.

I now wish to talk about the developments in housing as these relate to private enterprise and the State Housing Commission. I feel this constitutes a great problem and there is certainly a need for improvement in development by this Government department—and now, of course, I refer to the State Housing Commission.

The commission is faced with a difficult task but I do feel that any development it might carry out could be upgraded and planned more efficiently than is the case today. We find that in numbers of cases we have hundreds of people who are housed in homes provided by the SHC and then suddenly problems arise as a result of a lack of community facilities, and so on, which make it necessary to employ full-time social workers to try to resolve problems that have been created.

I must reiterate and say that prevention is better than cure. It is necessary to make an all-out attempt to secure greater co-operation between the Government departments—particularly the State Housing Commission—and the local authorities. Where local authorities are prepared to expend large sums of money to provide in quick time amenities to serve the needs of the people concerned they should be given greater assistance and shown greater recognition and an attempt should be made to eliminate the type of development that is being carried out by the Housing Commission at the moment.

We should look to the future and attempt to discover the best means of housing people; and if the Housing Commission can co-ordinate and plan its developments in conjunction with private enterprise I feel sure we will have better houses and a better environment.

I did not think I had talked for quite so long, but I do hope that members will now have some knowledge of the problems that are apparent in my electorate. I thank you, Mr Speaker, and members of this Chamber for the tolerance that has been shown me in this my first address to Parliament.

MR HARTREY (Boulder-Dundas) [4.49 p.m.]: May I, Mr Speaker, in addressing my remarks to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, say how happy I am to see you elevated to the position