

required by the Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly; to assist in the performance of official duties with respect to sport and recreation, as required by the Minister or the Premier, and to do things that are incidental to those functions.

Under section 44A(3) of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act the specified functions of the member for Roleystone as a Parliamentary Secretary are as follows: To have the carriage of government Bills; to assist with the parliamentary business of the Minister with respect to education and to assist with other parliamentary business as required by the Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly; to assist in the performance of official duties with respect to education, as required by the Minister or the Premier, and to do things that are incidental to those functions.

Under section 44A(3) of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act the specified functions of the member for Swan Hills as a Parliamentary Secretary are as follows: To have the carriage of government Bills; to assist with the parliamentary business of the Minister with respect to justice and to assist with other parliamentary business as required by the Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly; to assist in the performance of official duties with respect to justice as required by the Minister or the Premier, and to do things incidental to those functions.

I table these documents.

[See papers Nos 12 and 13.]

### **PETITION - GUILDERTON REGIONAL PARK**

**DR EDWARDS** (Maylands) [3.13 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the Government establish a Regional Park immediately to the south of Guilderton in order to protect the mouth and lower reaches of the Moore River and the significant dunes and coastal heathland south of the mouth of the Moore River.

We request that the Government take urgent action to acquire this land before it is further rezoned or developed,

and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 209 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 1.]

### **STATE TRADING CONCERNS AMENDMENT BILL**

*Leave to Introduce*

**MR COURT** (Nedlands - Premier) [3.15 pm]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move -

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the State Trading Concerns Act 1916.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Court (Premier), and read a first time.

### **GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

*Distribution of Copies*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): Accompanied by the honourable members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor (Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, AC, MC) in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the speech to be distributed among members of this Chamber.

### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

*Motion*

**MR SWEETMAN** (Ningaloo) [3.19 pm]: I move -

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's speech be agreed to -

May it please Your Excellency -

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, in moving the Address-in-Reply and delivering my inaugural speech to this Parliament, may I congratulate you on your election as Speaker and immediately add that I have appreciated the courtesy you have extended to me in the short time I have been involved in Parliament. I also congratulate the new members elected with me at the December election.

To begin my address, I take the traditional and proper course in acknowledging the many loyal supporters and volunteers who gave of their time and effort to bring about this result that the Liberal Party so richly deserves. I pay particular thanks to Steve O'Halloran, a good friend and a good Liberal, who chaired my campaign committee, and to my wife and family, without whose help and support a difficult task would have been made more difficult and less worthwhile.

The electorate of Ningaloo came about as a consequence of the recent redistribution. It was the seat of Northern Rivers, but a subtle massaging of the boundaries saw Wiluna drop out and to the north the bulk of Ashburton come in. The population did not vary a great deal; the electoral roll did not vary by more than one elector. It is no secret that we had a difficult time immediately I was endorsed to run for Parliament, but it did not interfere with our program. We worked diligently and stuck to the game plan for the entirety of the campaign. We needed a 1.2 per cent swing to take the seat from the Labor Party at the election. We campaigned, and I doorknocked almost every door in every town in my electorate, missing only a few houses in my home town. We suffered a modest swing against us on the coast, while winning most of those boxes. The success story of our campaign was what we were able to achieve in the inland areas - the towns on and adjacent to Great Northern Highway - where we got swings of between 15 and 25 per cent, with an average swing of almost 20 per cent. The final result was that my party and I as the member now hold that seat by 1.2 per cent.

An interesting statistic is that the Greens and Democrats vote on a two party preferred basis after the third distribution of preferences went our way at almost 40 per cent. An interesting aside is that while the public was directed through how-to-vote cards to put a particular member last, the people who cast votes made up their own minds.

Before I proceed to the major items in my address, I pay particular recognition to the member whom I replaced in this Parliament, Mr Kevin Leahy. He served the seat of Northern Rivers and represented me and my fellow electors in this Parliament for eight years. I am aware of the sacrifice that he made and that his family had to make with him, and I record that recognition and thanks.

My address will not be long, and in the short time available to me now I will give a basic description of the electorate of Ningaloo and of the issues that affect my electorate, and a brief profile of the member whom the people have elected to represent them. My electorate includes the towns of Denham, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Onslow, Newman, Meekatharra, Cue, Mr Magnet, Yalgoo, Sandstone and Gascoyne Junction, and all or part of 12 different shires. Most people associate Ningaloo with Ningaloo Reef and North West Cape, an area of international significance because of its unique beauty. Shark Bay, a World Heritage area, is also well known internationally. In fact, little of the coastline that borders my electorate does not have a distinct and innate beauty.

The next area of significance that visitors will clamour to see is the Cape Farquhar region, which is located approximately 140 kilometres north of Carnarvon and is still a genuine wilderness area with an abundance of coral, fish and weed varieties. That area has, until now, been a well guarded secret, but at a recent council meeting the Shire of Carnarvon elected to reopen an old access road through the adjacent pastoral property, and I expect it will not be long before that area comes under pressure from ever increasing visitor numbers.

The Town of Exmouth is about to realise its true potential with the completion of the outer harbour. There is considerable interest in the inner harbour resort and residential developments. Developers are expected to spend between \$120m and \$200m over the next three to four years to develop the marina to complement this development. Plans are well advanced for the upgrading of the airstrip to international standards, at an approximate cost of \$8m. This will benefit the region and bring tourists to the area. It will also allow direct access into the Asian region for seafood and horticultural produce from the Gascoyne.

Newman, in the north east corner of my electorate, is a thriving and prosperous community. The future of the town is secure. The expected life of the town at this stage is between 50 and 90 years, with the Whaleback iron ore deposits and adjacent satellite ore bodies. I expect that access to Karijini National Park in future will be primarily via Newman for people travelling north up Great Northern Highway. Karijini National Park has its own distinct beauty and is certainly worth looking at.

When travelling down to the gold producing region, one sees that all towns exist as a paradox, because despite the abundance of wealth that has been produced, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Cue, Yalgoo and Sandstone, once proud, thriving towns steeped in history, are mostly now in abject poverty.

The pastoral country, which covers the entire electorate of Ningaloo, approximately 440 000 square kilometres, is still enduring the worse crisis that the pastoral industry has ever faced. I met people during my campaign who were basically prisoners to their properties and hanging on for grim death, hoping for better times. Some properties were down to as few as a thousand sheep. The Gascoyne-Murchison Rangeland Strategy, which has now been completed, contains some major initiatives for that industry, including restructuring and diversification. The latter will be facilitated to some extent by the new Land Administration Bill.

My electorate has a diverse and broad economic base, and in dollar and per capita terms it produces more wealth than any other electorate. Industries include gold; iron ore; oil and gas; wool; sheep, cattle and goats; and salt at centres like Useless Loop in the Shark Bay region, and Lake McLeod and Carnarvon. I understand that Onslow will soon come on line with a salt works producing around 1.5 million to 2 million tonnes per annum. Salt at Lake McLeod is about to be supplemented by a gypsum development, which required expenditure by CRA Ltd of approximately \$40m. The first shipment is still scheduled to leave the Port of Cape Cuvier in July-August of this year.

Fishing, prawning and scallops are still significant industries to coastal communities in my electorate, as well as the horticultural industry, which is based primarily in Carnarvon. Tourism is an ever increasing industry in my region, and that industry can flourish only with careful management. In addition, we have the fledgling industries of pearling and aquaculture.

I deal with the issues in my electorate not necessarily in order of priority, but the people in Ashburton desperately need our help. The damage bills from the flooding in that area in recent times have now passed \$14m or \$15m. Those people are attempting to mop up in the best way they can, in harsh and Spartan conditions, with temperatures averaging 45 to 46 degrees nearly every day. Reports have been compiled for the various Ministers. I am aware of a report compiled for the Primary Industry portfolio, and that Agriculture Western Australia, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia Inc, the shires and Main Roads WA, are compiling figures for the Department of Transport. I have received expressions of concern that this is taking what seems to those people to be an inordinate time, but it is important that they know they are not forgotten and that at the end of the day the Government is there for them and is doing more than just sympathising with their plight.

In reading through inaugural speeches and speeches to this House over many years, the ongoing and constant concern is that not enough of the wealth that is produced in my electorate remains there. We criticise the Federal Government for being wickedly centralist, but we as a State Government must guard ourselves against adopting the same mentality. People out in the bush are suffering, and, to quote Ernie Bridge, the bush is not a pretty place in most areas at the moment. Some recognition and benefit from the wealth that is produced must flow back to regions such as my electorate. Probably 40 or 50 per cent of my region could do with a massive cash injection. The mooted state royalty on gold production is one example, and it causes enormous concern to the people in the gold producing areas of my electorate. The gold producing industry has had to bear much over many years. The mining industry generally has had to work with the down side of the fringe benefits tax - the income tax which has been levied against it from 1990 - and a raft of other small and indirect taxes. The gold miners in my region are concerned that they may be hit with an additional impost.

Law and order continues to be an issue in places like Carnarvon and in smaller communities. The demographics of our area are changing constantly. Various Acts must be streamlined so that they apply more speedily, and harshly if the need demands. The provision of health facilities continues to be an issue. People know vast pools of revenue are not available to accommodate their every wish or whim. However, these facilities need to be more accessible.

Incentives must be provided initially to encourage teachers to go to the country, and then to induce them to stay so that stability is retained, and in some cases reintroduced, in our schools in the country. Those in the pastoral industry are still deeply concerned about the implications of native title legislation and cannot wait for the new land administration Bill to be passed, thus giving them some security through land tenure.

My electorate has inherited a legacy of a previous Federal Government; that is, power tariffs. Seven towns in my electorate are still in limbo, waiting to see what is to be proposed under the new uniform power tariffs which will result from the diesel fuel consumed by power stations of the Western Power Corporation being subjected to excise. These are just some of the issues that I will pursue vigorously over the next four years.

As the member the people of this electorate have charged with the responsibility of representing them for the next four years, I say this: Mr Speaker, I am a carpenter by trade and not overly academically qualified. Over the years I have been fortunate to work with many people more intelligent than I. As Solomon once said: As iron sharpens iron, so too does one man learn from another. I have picked up many of life's skills which will equip me well to serve my electorate. I was the beneficiary of a good upbringing; my mother had good Christian values and observed godly absolutes, and I carry those same values and absolutes with me into this Parliament. For as long as I am fortunate

to serve here I will remember this caption of the Scriptures that sums up my position in this Parliament: I stand here today knowing, as Nebuchadnezzar was made to understand 3 000 years ago, that the most high rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will and sets over it the basest of men.

Finally, I have lived in Carnarvon for most of my life, and was educated and learned my trade there. I married a Corrigin girl and raised a family in the bush. I understand the needs and aspirations of the people in my electorate. I am confident that the many life experiences I have enjoyed, and on occasions have had to endure, will equip me for the task ahead. I have a reputation of being hardworking and resourceful, and I look forward to participating in the challenges of the high office of a member of Parliament. Mr Speaker, with your guidance and that of my colleagues, I look forward to working in a cooperative manner with all members of Parliament to maintain integrity and to govern wisely and justly.

[Applause.]