

interstate to do the job here. We have to support Territory businesses and, if that means setting different priorities in the budget, then I say set them!

Territory businesses are telling me that they will be swamped by interstate competition unless they receive assistance here - and it is not forthcoming.

Mr Lugg: Rubbish!

Ms MARTIN: And it is not forthcoming.

It is disappointing to look down the figures for the budget for the Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry for next year and see that nearly every area has taken a cut. A number of businesses have said that it is interesting to note that, curiously, corporate management has not been cut. Instead, all the areas that will really affect businesses have reduced allocations. That is what business is telling me.

Let us look now at the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, another of my shadow portfolio areas. A ministerial statement has been presented at these sittings about water resources, and the importance of the role of the Water Resources Division and the work it is doing to underpin agricultural, horticultural, and general community development in the Territory. Despite that, what do we see in these figures? In every division and every aspect of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, substantial cuts have been made, and there is no explanation anywhere as to why that has occurred - not in a single instance. I compare it with 1997-98 and what do I find? I find that, in 1997-98, this department had 426 staff. This year, it has 383, a significant reduction in the numbers. In the areas that are the keys to our development, resource management and environment, 20 staff have been cut. There were 174 last year and there are 154 this year. How can we even pretend that we can get the work done that is needed to underpin development if key areas such as water resources and pastoral land management, areas where we need the numbers and the resources, are being cut? It is absurd.

In respect of environmental protection, absolutely no consideration appears to have been provided for an important bill that I had hoped we would be debating in these sittings - that is, the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Bill*. By any assessment, when that legislation is enacted, considerably more staff will be needed in the relevant area of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment to monitor and put the principles of the legislation in place. However, staff numbers in that area have been cut and no recognition has been given

to the resources that will be needed. Not surprisingly, poor old heritage has been whacked again. It was whacked last year and has been whacked again. I think that indicates exactly the level of priority for heritage in the Territory, even in this Heritage Week in Australia.

Finally, we have a Department of Arts and Museums but, once again, cuts have been made in key areas. Nearly \$400 000 has been cut from the budget for history and culture, without any explanation. The museum's charter is to provide public education and public displays. History and culture are critical components of that and yet they have been subjected to a large cut. What will we see this year? As he zipped through his speech, the minister briefly mentioned the natural history gallery which we may see one day. However, I doubt really that the dollars for it are there. Certainly, the dollars are not available for the poor old sperm whale to be mounted on the wall. We await the whale, but again the dollars are not there.

I will quickly mention a few more areas. As I mentioned before, there is no way to assess what any of the figures relating to young Territorians mean. In racing and gaming, the major area of activity this year will be the privatisation of the TAB. Once again, it is the Territory catching up on most of the states that are well progressed with or have completed that privatisation. Libraries actually have an increase in funding. I happen to know that is to do with computer services and computer systems, but nothing in the budget papers tells me that. That indicates again the inadequacy of the document that the Treasurer was waving around today. It is inadequate for making an assessment of what is happening.

I turn now to the *Women in the Budget* document. I did some figures on *Women in the Budget* because it is a document about gender equity and how women are being considered particularly throughout a range of areas of administration. An examination of information on heads of departments, commissioners and people in senior management reveals that, of the 46 positions involved, 40 are occupied by men and 6 by women. The women are doing particularly well. However, in the area of key activity, at the AO4 level, 279 positions are occupied by men and 768 by women. Those figures say it all really. Any attempt to achieve gender equity has either failed or is going nowhere - I do not know which.

The electorate of Fannie Bay is an extremely busy one. It has been very busy in 1996-97. Land use objectives are in the process of being established for the southern suburbs, including the entire