

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — 2020–21 STATE BUDGET

763. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

In the upcoming budget, can we expect the \$1.944 billion that the government has cut from royalties for regions over the past three budgets to be returned to the program to ensure that regional Western Australia will receive a fair share of the funding it so deserves?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Once again, the premise to the question is incorrect. We have retained royalties for regions exactly as we said we would before the state election. I recall the National Party campaigning before the state election saying, “The government’s going to get rid of it.” If members go and look at each of the last three budgets, they will find royalties for regions is in the budgets and funding important projects all over regional Western Australia. We have kept our commitment to regional people across the state. What members will find in this budget, once again, is important commitments to regional Western Australians.

I look at you, Mr Speaker. I was with you the other day turning the sod to start work on the important Albany ring-road. We do not fund regional WA only from royalties for regions. We also fund it from other parts of government. Direct appropriations from other parts of government go into regional Western Australia. Looking at regional Western Australia—I have been in the regions a number of times in recent weeks—we see an economy that is strengthening, fantastic services and people who are confident about the future.