

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN JOBS ACT — GOVERNMENT PROJECTS — LOCAL CONTENT

**107. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to creating jobs, which has already seen 33 000 more people in work since the last election. Can the Premier update the house on how the historic and unprecedented WA jobs law is providing more jobs for Western Australians and creating more opportunities for local businesses?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Thank you, member for Swan Hills, for the question. For the first time ever, this state government, as opposed to previous state governments, is doing its utmost to secure Western Australian jobs from government projects. Members will be aware that we passed the Western Australian Jobs Bill last year to maximise the local content on government projects in our state.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I do not want a running commentary.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That means that for the first time ever, companies —

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman, you are on two. Do you want to go home early today?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** For the first time ever, companies bidding for government contracts will have to outline the amount of local content they will utilise and the number of local workers and apprentices they will provide, and those requirements will be written into their contracts. It is true that since coming into effect, the Western Australian Jobs Act is delivering. There are nine pilot projects across the state. The Minister for Culture and the Arts and I went to the new Western Australian Museum yesterday and saw a magnificent project maximising local content. We have seen upgrades to Southern River College create 189 jobs and 37 apprentices, with 100 per cent Western Australian content. The Casuarina Prison expansion has 100 per cent Western Australian content. That is more than 1 275 Western Australian workers. There is a range of those across Western Australia, including in the regions, such as \$24 million to expand Bunbury Regional Prison, which is 100 per cent regional and 100 per cent built in regional Western Australia. That is 731 regional jobs and 37 regional apprenticeships. We are very pleased that we brought this policy in to maximise jobs for Western Australians. Obviously, from the background noise I hear opposite, the Liberal Party does not support this.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We are keen to use the opportunities of government to maximise jobs for Western Australians. If the Liberal Party does not support that, then it can take that to the next election.