

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY — BUNBURY

626. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Premier:

I refer to this government's commitment to creating more jobs for the people of Bunbury and the south west and the \$15 million commitment for a new water treatment plant that was announced yesterday.

- (1) Why is this project needed?
- (2) How will it support jobs in Bunbury?
- (3) What other jobs are being created in the south west?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) Firstly, I thank the member for Bunbury for the question and for his outstanding service to the people of Bunbury and the south west. The cabinet had a great visit to Bunbury over the course of the last couple of days. What became very clear was that the member for Bunbury is a very popular and hardworking local member. It was terrific to be with him yesterday when we announced the commitment of \$15 million to Aqwest for the Bunbury water treatment facility to ensure that we enhance the water supply to people in Bunbury. This \$15 million will allow for a treatment facility to be built to ensure the highest quality of water comes out of the bore in Glen Iris. Some work had already been done, but, unfortunately, the treatment component of the project was not funded when we came to office. We allocated the \$15 million and workers were there yesterday doing the work. That treatment facility will allow water being drawn from the bore there to be put into the reticulated system to meet the needs of the people of Bunbury, of greater Bunbury and other parts of the south west. Of course, that reduces the pressure on the bores that are close to the coast, and therefore reduces the prospect of saltwater intrusion into the aquifer. Once again, my government—Labor in power—is fixing the problems left behind and ensuring that we create jobs for regional communities and making sure that the people of the south west have a decent water supply.

While we were there, we did all sorts of things. Members heard about the south west emergency rescue helicopter that the former government did not fund. We funded that for the long-term future.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: We were able to talk about our plans for the Bunbury waterpark, our twelve and a half —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore, I have given you a fair bit of lenience. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Moore does not really understand Bunbury or the south west at all—not like the member for Bunbury. We announced \$34 million for the Bunbury waterfront, planning money for the Bunbury outer ring-road, and the \$3 million upgrade to the Halifax Business Park. The Labor government announced a whole range of initiatives over the course of the last couple of days —

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr M. McGOWAN: — to make sure that we create jobs and opportunities for people in Bunbury and the south west. The member for Bunbury has been instrumental in securing that support.