

REGIONAL CONTRACTS — TENDERING

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the Premier concede that his government's current approach to analysing and weighting local content provisions in tenders is failing regional Western Australia when at least four of the projects that I have listed went to interstate or Perth-based businesses?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No, I do not; and never has more effort been put into getting local content under the Western Australian Jobs Act than now. I just explained all that to the member. I explained what has occurred in Geraldton where we maximised local content. As I recall, the unsuccessful tenderer in Geraldton won contracts all over the state outside of Geraldton, including one to build a school in Baldivis. I want to ensure that regional businesses get those opportunities in the city as well. If the member is suggesting that somehow a regional business should be restricted to winning contracts only in the area in which it is based, that does not allow them to grow or be broadly successful. Under our jobs act, we have ensured that we maximise local content and that it is written into contracts with successful tenderers so that they have to deliver. Wonderful projects are going ahead all over regional Western Australia because of this government's work.