

EDUCATION — INFRASTRUCTURE

52. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Premier:

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the Murray–Wellington, I acknowledge Steve Thomas, the captain of the Preston Beach Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, who is in the Speaker's gallery today.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in high-quality school infrastructure that supports the first-class education of our children.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on how the government is not only delivering new schools in our growing suburbs, but also building new education facilities such as the new performing arts centre at Melville Senior High School?
- (2) Can he advise the house how this investment is supporting local businesses and helping to create jobs?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Bicton for the question. She is a great advocate for the schools in her electorate and was very well received when we opened the Melville Senior High School performing arts centre yesterday, a \$5 million investment by the state and the school. The performing arts centre will directly benefit nearly 500 performing arts students at the school. It is an iconic building, a wonderful space and it has supported 230 local jobs. It means that that school, which is growing in size and has improved out of sight over recent years, will deliver new facilities and support for its students. I was at Mount Lawley Senior High School last week with the member for Mount Lawley starting work on the state-of-the-art science, technology, engineering and mathematics centre at Mount Lawley Senior High School, which is a \$4 million investment by the state. I thank the member for his advocacy for that. Indeed, a couple of weeks ago, I was at Collie Senior High School with the member for Collie–Preston, a former dux of Collie Senior High School. He is a well-respected alumni of Collie Senior High School. We were able to open the \$7.5 million upgrade for that school. To be fair, it has absolutely transformed the offerings that that school is able to provide.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, the leader is on his feet. I want to hear him, not you.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Of course, that commitment was made by the Liberal–National government in the lead-up to the 2013 election and not delivered, so we are very pleased to have provided that at Collie Senior High School.

In Broome, \$20 million of upgrades to Broome Senior High School are underway. In the Pilbara, \$15 million of upgrades to Hedland Senior High School are underway. As we know, Margaret River Senior High School has massive ongoing upgrades. But, of course, the inner suburbs and the western suburbs were neglected under the last Liberal–National government. We saw the population of Churchlands Senior High School and Shenton College grow enormously with a sea of demountables at each school when the Liberals and Nationals were in office. So it was with great pride that a few weeks ago, we opened Bob Hawke College in Subiaco, a first-class building, a first-class school and an amazing state-of-the-art facility. It is a \$76 million investment to ease the pressure on the inner suburbs. I thank the member for Perth for all his advocacy for this new school. It has opened with 260 year 7 students in the inaugural class. By 2025, the full cohort of years 7 to 12 will be more than 1 500 students. The feedback I received that day and indeed since has been overwhelmingly positive, with one exception.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Who was that?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It was the member for Nedlands.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I know. He spent eight and a half years in office and was a minister for most of that time and he failed to deliver a new school for his electorate. We go and do it for the people of Nedlands and he complains. This is what he had to say —

Bob Hawke College in my electorate—yes, a tick, but it addresses only year 7s ...

Then the Leader of the Opposition chimed in and said that it has not helped Churchlands at all. When a new high school opens, it starts with year 7 and the next year there will be year 8 and the year after year 9, as they always do. Of course, it was the Liberal Party that closed Scarborough Senior High School, Hollywood Senior High School and Swanbourne Senior High School in the western suburbs. It closed three high schools out there, but they are complaining that we have built new high schools to meet the needs of the inner suburbs and the western suburbs. It is a bit rich that the people of the western suburbs appear, against their better interests, to vote for Liberal Party members, and those Liberal Party members complain when we deliver a state-of-the-art high school for those very people.

