

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY HUB — BUNBURY–GEOGRAPHE

Statement by Minister for Regional Development

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Regional Development) [1.13 pm]: I am pleased to advise the house that on Tuesday, 5 September 2023, I announced that the state government had awarded the contract to deliver a detailed feasibility study and business case for an advanced manufacturing and technology hub—AMTECH—in the Bunbury–Geographe region. This honours our 2021 election commitment to the south west region, and I would like to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken so far by a range of stakeholders to progress the AMTECH proposal. This piece of work will investigate the preferred model, location, structure and services for AMTECH.

Deloitte will work with industry, enterprise, higher education providers, entrepreneurs and all tiers of government to develop a comprehensive analysis that includes stage gates for stakeholders to analyse, refine and fully scope the viability of the preferred design. A steering committee has been formed to support the delivery of the work. The steering committee is independently chaired by Hon Clive Brown, a former Minister for State Development, and includes representatives from the South West Development Commission; the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; the Department of Treasury; the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; DevelopmentWA; and the Southern Ports Authority. The work will focus on core industry areas underpinned by the region’s comparative advantages, aiming to unlock the region’s potential to support the renewable energy sector through advances in wind and battery technology and access to high-value critical minerals.

The state government has identified technology and advanced manufacturing as a priority to grow and diversify the economy, create sustainable jobs and secure the state’s future. Globally, advanced technologies are shaping the future of manufacturing to increase competitiveness and drive economic prosperity. The development of an advanced manufacturing hub will create a high-tech environment that integrates research and development, education and commercialisation to build resilience across the manufacturing supply chain.