

WATER SUPPLY — DENMARK

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [9.13 am]: I rise to inform the house of the progress of a fantastic McGowan government initiative that is securing not only Denmark's long-term water supply, but also local jobs in the great southern. The Albany to Denmark pipeline is on track for delivery in early 2021, with the contract worth \$14.7 million awarded to Georgiou Group for its construction. The project is set to employ more than 250 Western Australians, with 50 local jobs directly in the great southern region. During construction, more than \$4.8 million of the \$25 million project will be invested in the great southern region through the hiring of local subcontractors and use of local materials and services. Subcontractor opportunities have been promoted through local industry channels, with the project's webpage attracting more than 60 registrations from local companies. Albany-based Aboriginal business Impact Services has also been engaged to assist with developing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people as part of this work.

Over the past few months, the Water Corporation has been working closely with relevant government agencies and landowners between Albany and Denmark to determine the most suitable pipeline route with minimal environmental impact. Through this work and design improvements, the expected cost of the project has been reduced by \$7 million. The proposed route will connect the pipeline at Chorkerup tank, 30 kilometres north of Albany, and follow the road reserve west along Wilcox Road, Redmond West Road, Kernutts Road and a small section of the Denmark–Mount Barker Road. The pipeline will then connect to an existing tank at Scotsdale that supplies water to Denmark. This is subject to final approvals. Construction is expected to begin in July 2020 and is on track to finish in early 2021.

The McGowan government is proud to be delivering yet another great project that is not only helping to secure the future of regional towns, but also creating local opportunities and local Western Australian jobs.