

MEEKATHARRA HOSPITAL

418. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Minister, from that answer, can I take it that there is no firm start date for the construction of the Meekatharra Hospital, a commitment that was made by this government in 2017?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I am sure that the member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, despite sitting in cabinet, probably does not understand the proper processes of cabinet process, and particularly proper budget processes. One of the first things that I did —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: One of the first things that I did as cabinet secretary when we were elected in 2017 was to re-establish the importance of the ERC in all financial and budgetary decisions, instead of having what we had—a sham process, which was the ERC process under Colin Barnett, in which he made all the decisions, and then the shadow ERC process, which was the royalty for regions process, in which members opposite threw money around willy-nilly. We are absolutely committed to this process, but it needs to go through the proper processes of government. That is the Expenditure Review Committee. Once the money is allocated, then there will be a business case project definition plan and it will be out to tender. That is when the time frames are determined.

There has never been more investment in regional health care than under this government, full stop—never ever.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member did nothing for Geraldton when she was in the Liberal–National government. It took a Labor member and a Labor government to deliver that and bring that home. We will continue to invest, we will continue to deliver on our election commitments and we will do it responsibly and through the proper processes of government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!