

MORRGUL

Statement by Minister for Regional Development

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Regional Development) [1.14 pm]: I am very pleased to advise the house that on 4 August 2022, our government awarded Broome-based company Morrgul a five-year \$1.47 million contract to support regional Aboriginal businesses to build their capacity and successfully compete for contracts across regional Western Australia. Morrgul is an Aboriginal-owned not-for-profit organisation working across the state to help Aboriginal businesses to make the most of tendering opportunities. The advisory service supports Aboriginal business owners throughout the tendering process to win tenders to supply goods and services to local and state governments, and to demonstrate their business capability and capacity to potential buyers.

Since awarding the contract, Morrgul has made significant achievements including matching 249 tender opportunities to Aboriginal businesses across the state, supporting \$5 161 862 in successful tenders and generating 49 new jobs. This represents a return on investment of one to 35—for every dollar spent by the state, \$34.97 was returned in successful tenders for Aboriginal business. Significantly, with the release of the Main Roads Western Australia plant panel tender in August last year, 18 Aboriginal businesses were supported to tender, 17 of which were successfully appointed to the panel. Morrgul has supported 78 Aboriginal businesses, 45 of which are existing clients building, growing and expanding their businesses and 33 are new clients. A further 20 businesses have been supported to develop marketing materials and a digital presence to expand their target markets.

Over the coming months, Morrgul will continue to support Aboriginal businesses to seek and tender for government procurement opportunities across the state. The Aboriginal procurement advisory service is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and is available at no cost to all regionally based Aboriginal businesses across Western Australia. The Aboriginal procurement advisory service is making a solid contribution towards the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Western Australian *Closing the gap jurisdictional implementation plan*, in particular towards target 8 with the strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities.