

OFFICE OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT

287. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Innovation and ICT:

I refer to the \$34.7 million investment in the Office of Digital Government. Can the minister outline how the investment will support the McGowan Labor government's commitment to deliver an efficient public sector with quality services for the community?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

I thank the member for Maylands for that question. Data and data management underpin the operations of almost all modern organisations, and the public sector is no different. The McGowan government created the portfolio of innovation and ICT to focus on an important area that had been largely ignored by the previous government. I have updated the house on a number of occasions on the work we have done to improve the capability and capacity of the WA public sector in this area, in particular the area of cybersecurity. I have previously advised the house that we have launched a whole-of-government digital security policy. I announced for the first time in the last budget that we have invested half a million dollars to establish the state's first ever dedicated whole-of-government cybersecurity team. We have invested \$5.6 million to support the national Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre headquartered in WA at Edith Cowan University Joondalup and entered into a memorandum of understanding with ECU Joondalup to leverage the research from its globally recognised Security Research Institute for the benefit of the WA public sector.

We have done all that despite the problems we encountered when we came to government in 2017. In this area, the previous government had provided only temporary funding to the then Office of the Government Chief Information Officer. It provided that office with three years of funding, which would have run out in June 2018. We instituted the service priority review when we came into government. One of the things it did was review the operations of that office. Apart from commenting on the temporary funding that was available, it also commented on the limited mandate that that office had. Amazingly, that office had no responsibility for cybersecurity—one of the most pressing areas in ICT. The office as it stood had no mandate on cybersecurity. Under this government, that office has been reborn as the Office of Digital Government. That was done at the time of the last budget. We extended its funding for 12 months. We made it clear that that office would provide clear leadership across the Western Australian government sector to improve services to Western Australians.

I am pleased to announce that in the coming budget, we will allocate \$34.7 million of recurrent funding for that office. For the first time —

Ms J.M. Freeman: Rebooting it!

Mr D.J. KELLY: Rebooting it, yes, member. I tried to resist saying that, but as you insist!

For the first time, the digital transformation agenda that the Western Australian public sector needs to be part of now has recurrent funding with an office that is properly resourced and properly led to provide leadership across the Western Australian government sector.

With this new funding, that office will improve the delivery of online services to Western Australians. On 5 February 2018, we launched wa.gov.au, which makes available 600 separate services to Western Australians that they can now access through that single point of entry. Whenever people sitting at home want to find out how to get a recreational fishing licence, for example, they can go to that portal and easily search government departments and find out how to do that.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Fish.wa.gov.au.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The member for Scarborough should get on that website, maybe at a quarter to midnight, rather than tweeting inaccurate information. She can find out a bit more about what the Minister for Transport is up to by going through that single point of entry. The member for Scarborough could learn a lot by going online and finding out what the state government is doing. I encourage her to do so and give Twitter a miss.

That office will provide enhanced cybersecurity leadership across the sector. It will provide leadership to government agencies on ICT procurement. Importantly, it will provide leadership in the area of data management.

For the first time, we now have a properly resourced, well-led Office of Digital Government to lead digital transformation across the public sector. I want to thank the staff in that office, who, for too long, have laboured under an uncertain future. The future for them is bright and the future for services in Western Australia is also bright.