

BROOME CHINATOWN PRECINCT — REDEVELOPMENT

**764. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to delivering job-creating projects in regional Western Australia to support business and drive the local economy.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on this government's job-creating investment in revitalising Broome's Chinatown precinct?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house how this will drive business activity in the area and support the growing number of tourists visiting the region?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Bunbury for the question.

- (1)–(2) The terrific thing is that Broome and the broader Kimberley are getting the attention that they deserve under our government. As we know, Broome is a world-class tourism destination. We have seen a rebirth of tourism in Broome and the broader Kimberley as a result of some of the initiatives that we have taken. On Friday, I was in Broome to announce a new investment of an additional \$12 million into the next stage of the Chinatown revitalisation program. Combined with the local shire, more than \$15 million is being spent on rebuilding, rebirthing and recreating Chinatown. That means that the total government investment in this project will be over \$22 million.

The thing about Chinatown is that it is a beautiful area and is really loved by tourists from interstate, Western Australia and around the world. The revitalisation of Chinatown will create 80 local jobs. Carnarvon Street, Short Street, Napier Terrace and Dampier Terrace will receive various components of upgrades. The historic Streeter's jetty will be improved and the Broome Visitor Centre will also receive some improvements. There will be further furniture, shade, lighting, plantings and the like. It will be a magnificent upgrade and one of the finest town centres anywhere in Australia when it is finished. We are confident that that will continue the rebirth and growing of the Broome tourism industry.

It builds on the other initiatives that we have taken for tourism in the Kimberley, including the initiative we took with Qantas to make airfares to Broome more affordable. Thus far, 26 000 people have taken up that opportunity, with an extra 500 tourists each week. The dredging of Broome port—or the port optimisation program, as the shire president, Harold Tracey, told me—has been completed. That means that double the number of cruise ships will go into Broome over the next year—21 cruise ships will head into Broome. It means that they can get easier access and stay longer because the rocks have been removed and the channel has been deepened. It is looking fantastic. Obviously, the Chinatown improvement will make a huge difference to Broome as well.

We are very pleased to invest in regional WA and very pleased to invest in job-creating projects like this Chinatown redevelopment. I would like to thank in particular the member for Kimberley and the Minister for Tourism for all their work on improving tourism in Broome.