

ALBANY RING-ROAD

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to support local jobs and local businesses through its unprecedented investment in regional roads, including the \$175 million Albany ring-road. Can the Premier update the house on the work that has been undertaken by the McGowan Labor government to get this project on the national agenda and construction underway, and can the Premier outline to the house how this project will support the local economy?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Can I thank the member for Bunbury for asking an important question about Albany, Mr Speaker!

**The SPEAKER:** I can re-read it for you if you like.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is great to see the member for Bunbury showing such interest in Albany!

Today was a great day for Albany. Work has now commenced on the Albany ring-road, which will complete the project. This project has been talked about for 25 years and it is this government that has made it happen. The Minister for Transport worked incredibly hard to get federal funding for this project. Prior to the state election, she put a significant amount of state money into this project, got the business case to Infrastructure Australia and obviously got a federal commitment as well. We are very thankful to the commonwealth government for its commitment to this project. This is a \$175 million project—the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in the great southern. Western Australian company Decmil has been awarded the contract. The project is set to create up to a thousand jobs in Western Australia, including, especially, jobs in the Albany area. It will be a vital piece of infrastructure that will ensure traffic flow and transport linkages into the Albany port for decades to come. It will also divert traffic away from the heart of Albany, which will be great. As those of us who spend considerable time in Albany know, Mr Speaker, traffic in the heart of Albany is often problematic.

The participation plan that Decmil has outlined will ensure a large amount of local content, which will give local businesses a great opportunity to gain work. At this point in time under our local jobs act, 289 participation plans have been submitted. An overwhelming majority of projects have 100 per cent Western Australian content and the projects have supported nearly 25 000 jobs in WA and over 1 000 apprenticeships. The Albany ring-road project was fast-tracked as part of our COVID response. We fast-tracked more than \$2.3 billion worth of large-scale road projects, including the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, Stephenson Avenue and the Leach Highway–Welshpool Road interchange. We are very pleased that we are now investing \$260 million a month in Western Australian roads, of which this road project is an important component. I thank you, Mr Speaker, as member for Albany, the transport minister, the federal government and the contractors for what will be a great project for Albany that will solve what has been an issue for decades.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. That was a very good question, member for Bunbury!