

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS

**321. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Premier:**

Can the Premier outline to the house how the McGowan Labor government, as the only party that can guarantee royalties for regions —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member, you can start again because I could not hear you.

**Mr K.J.J. MICHEL:** Can the Premier outline to the house how the McGowan Labor government, as the only party that can guarantee royalties for regions, is investing in infrastructure and services in regional Western Australia and creating local jobs?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Can I firstly thank the member for Pilbara for the question, and acknowledge his experience in creating jobs in regional Western Australia, as someone who arrived in Karratha, set up a business and employed dozens of people. I think he deserves our admiration. What is more, there is one person he put out of work, I suppose we could say, and that is Brendon Grylls! Well done, member for Pilbara, for that service that you provided to everyone in Western Australia! I know the Liberal Party would agree with me on that one.

It is true. The member for Pilbara raises an important point; that is, that the Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Liberal Party has said that the Liberal Party is going to get rid of royalties for regions. Members will note that we have not said that. In fact, we have kept royalties for regions and made it stronger. We are investing via that program in a whole range of employment-creating initiatives across regional Western Australia.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Mr Speaker, the use of the word “fraud” is an inappropriate parliamentary term and the Leader of the Opposition should withdraw his comment.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I withdraw.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is very gracious of the Leader of the Opposition.

The budget includes a whole range of initiatives that are job-creating. Obviously in yesterday’s debate we went through many of them, so I will just run members through a few. There is \$24 million in new funding for grains research and development; \$5 million to establish the Myalup primary industries reserve in the member for Collie–Preston’s electorate; the regional new industries fund to assist start-ups and the like across the region; the \$22.5 million investment in the government’s regional economic development grant scheme; the \$2 billion in regional road investment, including in the electorates of the member for Bunbury and the member for Pilbara; and the upgrades to schools across regional Western Australia, especially in your electorate, Mr Speaker. That is well deserved in Albany in my view—well deserved. We all think that Albany deserves the attention that it is getting. For some reason, the Liberal Party and the National Party do not like Albany, Mr Speaker; you might want to note that.

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** What about Moora?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I want to mention the midwest. There is a \$70 million investment to redevelop Geraldton Regional Hospital, something the Liberals and Nationals were unable to achieve. I can see members opposite are very angry that once again Labor is leading the way in Geraldton, as we did last time we were in office. Admittedly, there was an eight-year hiatus on things happening in Geraldton. Geraldton is back under the Labor government! Yesterday I was able to quote to the house Kitty Prodonovich’s extreme praise of the budget, and I was able to quote some other people. Today I want to quote some other people who have commented on the terrific initiatives in the regions. Perhaps they did not get the memo. Perhaps the memo came out for the opposition slightly late. Straight after the budget came down, the media in his electorate asked the member for Kalgoorlie what he thought of the budget, and he said —

Well, in job-creating infrastructure, they’ve allocated \$73.2 million, which is—that’s a good amount of money ...

The sole Liberal upper house member in the south west, Steve Thomas—I must say that Steve Thomas is growing on me; he really is—said —

**Extract from *Hansard***

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Mr Kevin Michel; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan

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The south west has done remarkably well from both the state and federal governments, and I'm really pleased with that.

I say on behalf of all of us, we endorse the member for Kalgoorlie and Hon Dr Steve Thomas and what they had to say about our budget—and they are totally right.