

FORTESCUE METALS GROUP — MANUFACTURING FACILITY

**968. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Hydrogen Industry:**

I refer to recent media reports concerning the loss of a hydrogen project investment to Queensland—Fortescue Metals Group's \$1 billion green energy manufacturing facility—because the state did not have a viable site for the development.

- (1) What sites did FMG approach the government about?
- (2) When did it first approach the government seeking serviced land?
- (3) How many hectares of serviced land was required by FMG?
- (4) Did either the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage or the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation provide briefings on this to the minister?
- (5) If yes to (4), when were briefings provided?
- (6) Given the importance of the hydrogen industry to Western Australia, why did the state government allow this project to be lost to Queensland?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(6) On 13 May 2021, Fortescue Future Industries released a request for proposal to all state and territory governments in Australia seeking information on infrastructure and investment on a range of manufacturing facilities. FFI did not identify specific sites when it had subsequent discussions with the WA government.

On 27 May 2021, our government responded to the request for proposal with details of available land and associated infrastructure that best met the requirements that had been outlined by FFI. In total, 14 sites were listed. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation briefed me in the week commencing 24 May 2021, prior to the formal submission to the RFP. Obviously, the decision to locate an ancillary manufacturing facility in Queensland was made by FFI.

The WA government and FFI continue to work on a range of hydrogen production and technology projects, including the Christmas Creek renewable hydrogen mobility project, which has been the beneficiary of a grant from the state government's renewable hydrogen fund.