

SOUTH WEST REGION — GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

97. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for South West:

Recently there has been criticism about the state government's investment in the south west region. Is the minister aware of this criticism and will he outline the facts to the house?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am aware of the criticism, and it has come from none other than the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition said a range of things in a radio interview and in the *South Western Times* recently —

Mr T. Buswell interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Of course, he is already misleading the people because I live 50 kilometres closer to the south west than he does. The article reads —

As a member from the South West I've always felt there was a lot of focus on the mining-based exports out of the Goldfields and the Pilbara areas and often the value of the South West to Western Australia is overlooked.

He is right about one thing: with the experience of the Treasurer and Minister for State Development, we have put a lot of effort into the Pilbara, the goldfields and the north of the state. However, he is wrong about the allegation that there has not been a huge amount of effort put into the south west during the term of this government. We have spent in capital works more than \$700 million—probably approaching \$1 billion—in the south west of Western Australia. The list is really quite extraordinary and starts with the currently being constructed Perth-Bunbury highway, \$341 million; improvements to schools in the Collie region totalling millions of dollars; the \$12.2 million Kingston primary school under construction; upgraded equipment at Collie District Hospital; the Lake Kepwari redevelopment that is to be concluded later this year; improvements to power, water and sewerage throughout the region; the Bunbury outer harbour development, which is underway; the Collie Motorplex project; the dental clinic in Bunbury; mental health unit replacement —

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Once again, a minister is quoting extensively from what I take to be an official document. I ask that, if it is an official document, he table it.

The SPEAKER: Order! If it is an official document, the minister can table it. If it is notes, he does not need to.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will continue to quote from my notes. Significant improvements to schools in the region total more than \$115 million for new and improved schools, including I might add, Cape Naturaliste College in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. We are trying to rebuild Busselton District Hospital, against the opposition of the Leader of the Opposition. The list continues: the greater Bunbury region scheme; the Back Beach redevelopment in Bunbury. The list is contained in my notes and the amount of effort directed towards the south west under this government is extraordinary. Allegations to the contrary are quite misleading.