

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE — SPOILBANK MARINA

459. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record investment in regional infrastructure projects, such as the \$187.5 million Spoilbank Marina.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the construction of this project, which will deliver a vibrant space for Port Hedland and the wider Pilbara community?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the construction of this significant project is supporting WA jobs and businesses?

Mr D.R. MICHAEL replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question, and for his tireless work in support of the people of Port Hedland and the mighty Pilbara region over the last six years. The Cook government is delivering on the long-awaited Spoilbank Marina, and what a magnificent project it is. Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting the site with the Premier and the member to announce the latest stage of the project. When I was out there, I thought about all of us in this place and all the communities in Western Australia that have projects that sit on the books for decades but never get done and never get funded. This is another example of the Cook government doing these projects in and around Western Australia. It is one thing to see an artist's impression of the marina, but it is quite another to see it taking shape before our eyes. I am glad that I had the opportunity to do so. It is truly a transformational project for the town and the broader region. This area of the Pilbara is the industrial powerhouse of the state through its resource industry. The Cook Labor government's investment in the marina will create an attractive and sustainable area for families to live, work and play. This project, which has received contributions from BHP and the Town of Port Hedland, will serve the entire community of Port Hedland by providing a recreational precinct that will make it an even better place to live, attracting locals and business alike.

The marina was recently connected to the ocean with a new channel and breakwaters and navigational structures are under construction. I congratulate the Pilbara Ports Authority for that work. The latter stage of work will involve the construction of marina roads, car and trailer parking, retaining walls, footpaths, landscaping, public amenities, shade structures, barbeque areas and the installation of utilities and services. The contract for this work has been given to a great Western Australian company, Ertech, and work is well underway. The active engagement of Aboriginal workers on this project is very heartening. The four-lane boat ramps will be completed by the end of 2023, with associated civil works finalised by mid-2024. The site will definitely be fully landscaped and operational by the end of next year. The marina will provide 22 pens for 22 vessels, with the option of providing additional pens in the future should they be needed.

Once again, I thank the member for his advocacy on behalf of the future users of the Spoilbank Marina and the community that will benefit from it. I am told—it is commonsense—that the spoilbank was created from the spoil from dredging the port and the navigational channel into the Indian Ocean. Member for Pilbara, the completion of the project will be one of the many spoils of being, as the local MP, the “King of the Pilbara”!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. I think that is points for the Minister for Ports! The Leader of the Opposition with the last question.