

GERALDTON HEALTH CAMPUS — REDEVELOPMENT

15. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to redevelop Geraldton Health Campus.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this redevelopment will improve healthcare services to the Geraldton community?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this investment at Geraldton hospital compares with that of the former Liberal–National government?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Geraldton for her question and for her ongoing advocacy for this incredibly important project for not just her local community, but the midwest region, and also for supporting the Gascoyne. There is no doubt about that. As a cabinet it was our pleasure to be in Geraldton last week with the member and, of course, the Premier, and to see firsthand the member for Geraldton's deep connection to her community, her ongoing advocacy and her good relationships with and support for her community and those who deliver important services.

I am very pleased that I was able to get to the health campus—I have visited there previously—and also meet with a number of local community members, senior members and shire councillors to discuss Geraldton Health Campus. We met with Ross McKim, the CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton, local councillors and Dr Ian Taylor, a very experienced GP obstetrician, who also has recruited his son to be a local GP obstetrician. I said, "Thank you very much. Have you got any more?" He has given decades of service to that community, and those regional hospitals are held together by those specialist GPs in particular, and the staff.

I am pleased to inform the house that the expression of interest for the redevelopment of stage 2 of the campus was very successful, with three significant construction companies expressing an interest—Multiplex, Lendlease and ADCO. They are all very reputable builders and are going through the Department of Finance process to determine who is invited to the next stage of the tender process. I have a lot of confidence in this project and that we will see a delivery of the project imminently.

It has certainly been challenging. The project saw a significant increase in construction costs. As we have seen, that region in particular is challenged by construction costs more than others because of cyclone Seroja and the pressure on those companies and the staff that support them, in both the commercial area and across to the residential sector as well.

The government has already delivered the enabling works for that project, which is a fantastic car park. If members ask patients at any hospital in the state what they want to see improved in their hospitals, car parks are usually in the top two or three, so the government is very happy to deliver that. That will also provide the enabling works. There will be an expansion of services in that region. That is why we are prioritising this project in that region. It will be not only state-of-the-art infrastructure, but also an expansion of services for the entire region. That will include an expanded emergency department, a new ICU with a high-dependency unit and an integrated inpatient acute mental health unit that will work in lockstep with the step-up, step-down program that the government also delivered in Geraldton. This is the biggest investment in that healthcare sector in the midwest region since the former Labor government, led by Geoff Gallop, a Geraldton local himself. I look forward to continuing to deliver this important project that will support the whole midwest region.