

WATER FOR FOOD PROGRAM — MYALUP–WELLINGTON WATER FOR GROWTH PROJECT —  
INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA

**991. Hon Dr SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the Infrastructure Australia media release from 30 November 2017 relating to the Myalup–Wellington water project. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the project and the funding contribution from the commonwealth government?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I really thank the member for this question. I know she is very concerned about the progress in the south west of the state. We note that we do not want to say anything controversial in a ministerial statement.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! I am finding it difficult to hear the minister.

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN:** A recent media release put out by Infrastructure Australia acknowledged the real benefit of that Myalup–Wellington water project, which I believe has bipartisan support in this chamber. However, it was extremely disappointing that Infrastructure Australia said this was unlikely to get federal government funding because there will be benefits flowing back primarily to the agricultural producers in WA and that that is not a good use of public funds. I encourage the members opposite to get on to their federal counterparts and remind them that the federal government has supported similar projects in the past, most recently the Tasmanian immigration projects, and indeed that is the model on which we based our project here in WA. We also need to remind them that of the \$450 million in the national water infrastructure development fund, \$293 million has been allocated to projects over east. We need the help of members opposite. We need them to get on to the Liberal–National government federally and tell it that we need support for this very important project so we can double horticultural production in this state.