

SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE — REGIONAL WASTE FACILITY

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MR K.M. O'DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [12.56 pm]: Greetings, Madam Acting Speaker. Our regional local governments are progressive and forward thinking. I recently heard about the Shire of Coolgardie's proposed regional waste facility and believe it to be an outstanding project. There are so many boxes ticked in favour for this development that it is an absolute no-brainer. Not only will the project be the first of its kind in Australia, but it will also create much-needed jobs, with no environmental footprint and no negative impact on the community.

A plant will be installed to convert plastics, tyres, oil and sludge—which is normally sent to landfill, dumped or transported somewhere else—into biogas and diesel to support off-grid energy solutions. The positive effects for the community and for our region will be aplenty. Not only that, the Shire of Coolgardie has also adopted the 2020–21 budget with a zero increase in rates and has not increased fees and charges for the use of all shire facilities. This is a much-needed move in these challenging times.

As for the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, I have been briefed on the Kalgoorlie water bank project, which I believe to be equally outstanding. The Kalgoorlie water bank is aimed to provide water for major industries so their business development and growth is not limited to the current water usage they are able to pay for. The water bank will provide competitive rates for water through its fit-for-purpose water scheme. Recycled water will go into reticulating parks, ovals, schools and sporting club facilities et cetera.

Both the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the Shire of Coolgardie need vital support.

Also, the Eucla airstrip at the epicentre of the hard border needs upgrading. Any water on the strip means that planes cannot land. The Royal Flying Doctor Service, the police and locals use it. We need the state and federal governments to come together and get this done.