

CORONAVIRUS — STATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN — AUSTRALIAN MARINE COMPLEX

**643. MR S.J. PRICE to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion recovery plan, which includes massive investment in WA's Australian Marine Complex. What will the new infrastructure at the Australian Marine Complex mean for WA jobs; and, how will it strengthen WA's bid for full-cycle docking work to be done in our state?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. We are the first state to have embarked on a recovery plan from COVID-19, which was a \$5.5 billion commitment that the government released maybe five weeks ago. Some of the initiatives contained within it are short term and shovel-ready, such as maintenance upgrades to schools and hospitals, police stations, volunteer fire and rescue services and the like; some are medium term, such as large improvements to TAFE campuses and community and sporting facilities across the state; and we have taken some longer term initiatives. One of those, of course, is the \$87.6 million investment in fast-track infrastructure at the Australian Marine Complex in Cockburn. The AMC is one of Western Australia's great success stories and great industry success stories. I would like to thank and acknowledge the member for Cockburn for all his work in promoting that initiative over many years, both pre and during his parliamentary career. While I am at it, I acknowledge the member for Cockburn and thank him for his parliamentary service. He has announced that he will retire in March next year. He has been a terrific colleague over the last 20 years.

Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The AMC has supported more than 440 projects over its time. It has created more than 40 000 jobs and provided infrastructure for important defence work, including the offshore patrol vessel build, and we are investing to expand that capacity. Our initiative will ensure that we expand the wharf capacity at the Australian Maritime Complex, provide additional priority berth access for the Anzac class frigates, construct a shipbuilding hall in the northern common user facility using underutilised waterfront land, and allow for a precinct for the construction of ferries and luxury yachts. The facilities will also provide access for the Australian Submarine Corporation and additional land to support the development of facilities for the full-cycle docking of submarines. As you know, Mr Speaker, we put in a significant bid for full-cycle docking of submarines. Obviously, the commonwealth government has not as yet made a decision. We have put our money where our mouths are to support the infrastructure at Australia's premier sea-facing shipbuilding and maintenance precinct. Obviously, it is in Western Australia, which is a significantly more robust and industrially capable state than our competitors. We would say to the commonwealth government that we have done our bit now. It is the easiest decision in the world to provide full-cycle docking to the state in which the submarines are based, which is Western Australia. We would urge the commonwealth government to make a decision as soon as possible in favour of the state that is the most capable.