

STATE BARRIER FENCE — ESPERANCE EXTENSION

1050. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the construction of the Esperance extension of the state barrier fence.

- (1) For the 63-kilometre portion of fence that has been constructed —
 - (a) what was the cost of construction for this portion of the fence;
 - (b) can the minister please provide both the planned and actual commencement and completion dates for construction; and
 - (c) what is the estimated completion date for the remaining 600-kilometre portion of the fence?
- (2) When will the public tender for the construction of the remaining 600 kilometres of the fence be released?
- (3) Have native title negotiations between the state and Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation been completed; and, if not, when will they be completed?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. I am sure Hon Colin de Grussa shares our enthusiasm for the Aboriginal employment outcomes that we have been able to generate.

- (1)
 - (a) Two contracts were awarded under the Western Australian Aboriginal procurement policy to Esperance Tjaltjraak Services Pty Ltd for clearing and construction of 63 kilometres of the Esperance extension. The construction and clearing costs were awarded on a per kilometre rate as training and upskilling opportunities, and amounted to a total of \$303 956, excluding GST. The contract prices were similar to those offered to other registered Aboriginal businesses operating on the renovation of the existing state barrier fence and were considered value for money.
 - (b) The first contract commenced on 23 May 2019 and took one month. The second contract commenced on 21 October 2019 and was completed on 21 April 2020.
 - (c) The remaining 600 kilometres of fence is expected to take around two years to complete from the time new construction contracts are awarded. All fence materials have been purchased and are in Esperance to ensure that construction can proceed immediately once the contracts are finalised.
- (2)–(3) The Indigenous land use agreement negotiations between the state and the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation have been very positive and are well progressed, but remain confidential. Tender processes to construct the remainder of the Esperance extension fence are progressing concurrently with the negotiations. Details will be revealed when the ILUA is finalised. However, I can tell members that we anticipate that the remainder of this work will be shared between Aboriginal contractors and full private sector open contestability.