

BUSINESS MIGRATION PROGRAM

750. Mr J.E. McGRATH to the Minister for Small Business:

I read with interest about the recent launch of Zone Q Investments' new project in Perth. As we know, each year new business migrants bring to Western Australia, including into my electorate of South Perth, important capital investment, and establish businesses that employ Western Australians. Can the minister outline the success of the Western Australian business migration program?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for South Perth for his question. I also read the recent announcement with interest. I saw the member's photograph and that of the Minister for Planning in the newspaper announcing that \$100 million investment in South Perth, and I think it is a wonderful success story. I want to place on record my appreciation of the small team at the Small Business Development Corporation that actually works on business migration projects. It comprises only a couple of people, but they do a wonderful job of bringing investment and people into the state of Western Australia, which ultimately creates an awful lot of jobs. The Zone Q project had its birth in May, when the Small Business Development Corporation nominated Zone Q Investments for a significant investment visa. Last financial year, the SBDC nominated 319 business migrants, from markets such as China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa, for visas to come to Western Australia, bringing their money to invest in our state to create jobs. Of those 319 nominations, 147 business migration visas were granted to come to Western Australia, bringing with them \$260 million and creating 250 permanent full-time jobs in Western Australia. It is a wonderful outcome for the member's electorate. It will be a significant investment—\$100 million is nothing to be sneezed at—for a commercial and residential development in South Perth. The team at the Small Business Development Corporation, as I said, does a wonderful job in attracting small business and big business migrants to invest in our state and create jobs and opportunities for the people of Western Australia.