

**“LOCAL CONTENT REPORT” — TABLING**

*Statement by Minister for Commerce*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce)** [10.31 am]: Today I have the pleasure of tabling the Liberal–National government's third “Local Content Report”.

[See paper 4558.]

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Like its predecessors, this report provides information on issues, trends and outcomes, which should assist informed debate and discussion both in Parliament and amongst the general public. The report provides further evidence that the state's approach to local industry participation is working. Since July last year, some \$18.2 billion of locally awarded contracts have been publicly announced, creating an estimated 60 000 jobs in Western Australia. Other impressive figures can be found in the local content reports that have been prepared for all projects operating under state agreement acts. For the period July to December 2011, \$2.4 billion of new contracts were awarded or committed to for operational projects, 81 per cent of which went to Western Australian contractors or subcontractors. For projects under construction, \$11.9 billion was committed, 72 per cent of which was local content.

The report also highlights the support that the state government provides small to medium-sized enterprises seeking to improve their competitiveness in supplying to resource projects. To date, 56 companies have received a share of \$1.2 million through the industry facilitation and support program for training, improvements in quality assurance, capital upgrades and enhancing occupational health and safety standards. This government recognises that the market to supply to resource projects is increasingly competitive. We are working with the Australian Steel Institute and industry associations in the engineering and design sector to consider means by which productivity can be improved and medium-term prospects mapped. In this context, we have been in regular contact with the commonwealth government to encourage it to take a more active role in promoting Australian industry participation. I am pleased with the levels of cooperation we are receiving from major resource proponents in terms of their analysis of local suppliers' relative competitive performance and their future prospects.

I am committed to continuing the Liberal–National government's strong efforts in this matter. We must maximise every opportunity for local industry to secure resource-related contracts, both domestically and overseas. I commend the report to the house.