

DEFENCE JOBS — FUTURE FRIGATE AND OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL PROGRAM

**868. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:**

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery, members of Busselton Lions from the member for Vasse's electorate.

Last week, the minister spoke at an industry roadshow on how Western Australian small and medium businesses can benefit from the future frigate and offshore patrol vessel programs. Can the minister please tell the house about these benefits and what other work the Liberal–National government has been doing to deliver more defence jobs to our state?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Carine for his question. I was very pleased last week to attend the industry roadshow hosted by our Department of Commerce and the Australian Department of Defence. This was designed specifically to present opportunities to the Western Australian business community around the SEA 5000 future frigate program and the SEA 1180 offshore patrol vessel program. Over 230 participants from Western Australian industry attended the roadshow to hear how they can potentially contribute to and benefit from a long-term multibillion-dollar project contract. As we all know, WA is home to a world-class naval shipbuilding repair and maintenance industry. Our local supply chain —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro. I call you to order for the first time. Let us hear the answer; let us get going.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Our local supply chain, by virtue of our oil, gas and mining sector, have honed its skills and it certainly has innovative practices that will be of benefit to these long-term contracts, potentially in servicing the Australian shipbuilding industry. The commonwealth was very impressed with the strength of those businesses that came to the roadshow. The commonwealth has selected Western Australia as one of two national shipbuilding precincts, confirming Henderson as Australia's minor naval vessel hub. So far, this will see 19 Pacific patrol boats and 10 of the 12 offshore patrol vessels—the OPVs—delivered at Henderson, resulting in a direct delivery of 500 jobs. The Liberal–National government recognises that this future shipbuilding program is a national endeavour. The size and scope of the future frigate project and the future submarine project are so big that South Australia cannot deliver it on its own; it will need our support and assistance. It is a \$35 billion future frigate program and a \$50 billion future submarine program.

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I call you to order for the first time. One minute, thank you.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Those fleets will replace the Anzac frigates and the Collins submarines. What members opposite are failing to understand is that there is an up-front value in these projects. About 30 per cent of the value of the program is in the delivery and building of the vessels. Seventy per cent of the value in these contracts is in servicing those vessels over the long term. We are talking about decades' worth of work servicing these vessels out of our hub at Henderson.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The importance of this for future generations —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Warnbro, I have been lenient on you. I do not want to hear from you.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This means decades of work for our children and grandchildren. I am really pleased and very proud of the capacity of our small and medium-sized enterprises at Henderson and across the metropolitan area that came to that roadshow to demonstrate to the Department of Defence the strength that we have at Henderson. Further to this, the Minister for Commerce, at the invitation of DCNS in France, has been over there —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** — to demonstrate to DCNS the strong commitment that the state government has to ensure that this project work will flow through to Western Australian businesses. It is well aware in France of the capacity that we have to provide support for and maintenance of these vessels over the long term and it is very excited at the prospect of working with our industry on the offshore patrol vessel program.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of Western Australians. We will continue to ensure that the Department of Defence understands the capacity and the capability that we have in Western Australia at Henderson. We will continue the very good work that we have been doing over time to put Western Australian businesses front and centre at the heart of these contracts to ensure that we secure those future jobs for our children and grandchildren.