

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN JOBS ACT

174. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Premier:

I refer to the landmark Western Australian Jobs Act delivered by the McGowan Labor government and this government's commitment to ensuring WA businesses and workers benefit from government contracts.

- (1) Can the Premier detail to the house how the WA Jobs Act will be phased in?
- (2) What are the opportunities for WA businesses during this trial phase?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the Labor member for Kingsley—it has a very good ring to it—who is a passionate advocate for Western Australian workers and Western Australian jobs.

- (1)–(2) Under the WA Labor government, Western Australian jobs are our first priority. The opposition would, of course, axe that massive investment in road and rail across Western Australia. It said we would not receive that funding and we did. Now we see a whole range of road and rail projects across Western Australia occurring in not just the city but also the regions. Of course, it was the opposition, as has been much canvassed—the Liberal Party—that tried to build major projects in Malaysia, failed and Western Australia's Labor government brought them onshore.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: We are demonstrating our commitment to Western Australian jobs with our historic Western Australian Jobs Act.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yesterday I talked about the launch of the industry link project with funding and support for Western Australian businesses to participate in that, and of course local participation plans. The work to phase in the Western Australian Jobs Act is underway. We have a six-month period before it becomes fully operational, but in the meantime a range of government trial projects are using the new procurement system that we are bringing in. These projects have been selected for the diversity of their location, their duration and their value and to work out whether there are any pitfalls along the way. These projects include the rolling stock for the Metronet project, the upgrade to Melville Senior High School's performing arts centre, the Bunbury Regional Prison expansion, the Casuarina Prison extension, stage 2 of the new Museum project and the widening of Reid Highway. All those projects and a range of others will be the template to ensure Western Australian businesses get used to the new procurement system that will ensure more Western Australian workers and businesses receive the benefits from government spending. We do not want to see what occurred in the past under the previous Liberal government; we want to make sure that Western Australian jobs come first.