

CORONAVIRUS — WA RECOVERY PLAN — SCHOOLS

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion WA recovery plan, which includes an unprecedented funding package to upgrade schools right across the state. Can the Premier outline to the house what this \$492 million infrastructure package will mean for Western Australian students, particularly those in my electorate of Kingsley, and how this investment in schools will support local jobs and local businesses?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. We have committed \$492 million, as part of our COVID response package, towards infrastructure in schools in regional and metropolitan Western Australia. Outside of a budget process, this is an unprecedented funding package and comes on top of the \$200 million for maintenance that we committed to in December last year. This will mean that local businesses are the big winners—in particular, those in building, construction and training.

With this package, 63 public schools across Western Australia will receive major additions. It will also ensure that many schools all over the state will get performing arts centres, new specialist facilities and the like. Of those 63 schools, 17 are in regional Western Australia and 46 are in the metro area. We expect that it will create nearly 2 000 jobs.

In the member for Kingsley's electorate, we are putting \$2 million into the new performing arts centre at Warwick Senior High School, \$1.5 million for an early intervention facility at Hawker Park Primary School, and \$2.4 million for various upgrades to Greenwood College. In Kalamunda, \$15.2 million will go to Lesmurdie Primary School, which was built in 1920, so it is an older school that needs some investment; and \$18.3 million will go into Kalamunda Senior High School. Across the regions, \$22 million will go to Karratha Senior High School for a new classroom block, including specialist classrooms for engineering, robotics, IT and food technology; and \$42 million will go to Roebourne District High School, which has always been forgotten, so the children of Roebourne will have a first-rate learning environment. That is basically a complete rebuild of the school. That will be terrific for the kids of Roebourne and its surrounds. Margaret River Senior High School will get a new sports oval on top of the \$30 million, I think, that we have already spent there. Performing arts centres will be built at Pinjarra, Albany, Wanneroo and Dianella. When I went down to Pinjarra, they were very excited. All the young men with mullets gathered around me for a photograph, as I remember. They looked magnificent! It is very exciting.

One of the investments that I am very excited about is \$32 million for Carine Senior High School, in the western suburbs. That builds on our commitment to fix the issue of overcrowding of schools in the western suburbs with Bob Hawke College. But I do note —

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: When did Carine become part of the western suburbs?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is the broader western suburbs! To me, if you go west, there is Carine. It is the broader western suburbs! I suppose you could say that Rockingham is in the western suburbs as well. I am very broad in my assessment of the western suburbs.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Anything that's near the coast!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think the member is going a bit far there, but certainly Rockingham and Carine are western suburbs!

There is \$32 million for Carine Senior High School. I went there earlier this year, or late last year, and saw that it obviously needs some significant improvements. It is this government that is delivering this infrastructure package, but I have noticed that the Liberal Party constantly campaigns around our commitments. I have a Facebook post by the shadow minister for cost of living, the member for Carine, in which he has two thumbs up while standing in front of Carine Senior High School. It states —

The Liberals support the \$32 million for a major upgrade ...

We are committed to progress this project if elected.

...

This is great news for local parents ...

I also have an announcement from the Leader of the Opposition. The way its Facebook posts are promoting it, people would think that it is a Liberal Party policy. Do members opposite actually think they are doing it? Members should read this, because it is hilarious. The opposition leader's Facebook site says —

HELPING OUR KIDS GET AHEAD

\$492 million for school upgrades including science, design and technology facilities

There is a photo of the opposition leader and a group of kids. If people visit the Liberal Party's website, they will see that it has no policies; yet the Liberal Party goes to our website, cuts and pastes our policies, then claims them as

its own. That appears to be the Liberal Party's policy development process these days. I suppose one could say that plagiarism is a form of flattery.