

PUBLIC SCHOOLS — MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented \$200 million investment in carrying out high-priority maintenance work across every school in Western Australia. Can the Premier outline to the house how this significant maintenance program will provide a direct and immediate boost to the Western Australian economy and help to create jobs?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Kingsley for the question—a member who is deeply committed to the schools in her electorate. As part of the school maintenance blitz, schools in Kingsley will be beneficiaries, just like every other public school across Western Australia. This is one of the biggest single investments in school maintenance in the history of our state. This is an additional injection of \$200 million for major maintenance work across every school in Western Australia. This will tackle many of the outstanding maintenance jobs required in public schools across Western Australia. It will provide a quick economic boost to communities across the state.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Really!

It will provide an enormous and quick economic boost to communities and suburbs across the state, and a pipeline of work for Western Australia's tradies. We expect that, all up, it will create 3 150 Western Australian jobs—1 900 in the metropolitan area and 1 260 in the regions. These are jobs for electricians, painters, plumbers, builders and carpenters. Because of the changes we made to the direct-to-market framework, much of this work will be able to get underway very quickly because schools will be able to directly employ local contractors to undertake the work. All up, 789 public schools will benefit through classroom refurbishments, electrical upgrades, toilets, playing surfaces, paths, car parks, solar panels, roof replacements and shade structures. Schools all over the state and in every electorate across Western Australia will benefit. Member for Burns Beach, there is \$1.5 million for Currumbine Primary School; member for Pilbara, there is \$1.8 million for Baler Primary School and \$1.8 million for maintenance at South Hedland; member for Roe, there is \$1.67 million for Katanning Senior High School; Leader of the Nationals WA, there is \$1 million for Merredin College; and member for South Perth, there is \$1 million for Como Secondary College. Well done, member for South Perth; great work! Member for Kalgoorlie, there is \$1 million for Kambalda West District High School. All this is on top of the \$450 million we are already investing in capital works across schools in Western Australia. This is all outstanding maintenance that was left to us. We are fixing the problems of the last government and we can do it because we have strong financial management back again in Western Australia.