

LITHIUM MINING — GREENBUSHES

1211. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the expansion of Talison Lithium's lithium mine at Greenbushes and the increased workforce required for ongoing operations.

- (1) How is the government supporting the company to ensure that the workforce is based locally?
- (2) What is the government doing to assist surrounding communities to accommodate that expanded operational workforce locally?
- (3) Given that the government removed funding for sewerage upgrades in Boyup Brook, what is the government doing to ensure that utilities in Boyup Brook and other towns are capable of accommodating more people as a result of the increased workforce?
- (4) Will the government give a commitment that it will not allow a work camp for these operational workers?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Talison Lithium has an existing commitment to source employees from within 30 minutes' travel time from the mine. That is its current commitment. We have asked that consideration be given to providing opportunities for workers from Collie and have discussed the option of providing a bus service for workers undergoing structural readjustment.
- (2) The South West Development Commission hosted a forum for surrounding local governments to hear from Talison regarding the expansion program. That was held on 3 September 2018. The following actions are underway as a result of that workshop. We are creating a prospectus to attract people and potential investment. We are developing a subregional growth plan. Talison and the South West Development Commission are delivering a series of community information sessions during November to help the local community understand business and workforce opportunities associated with the project. Talison requirements will be reviewed by the south west labour market survey to inform future skill and labour needs of the region.
- (3) This will be considered as part of the subregional growth plan.
- (4) The government's strong preference is for employees to be sourced from the local community wherever possible.