

**Building and Construction Industry Training Board —**

Mr D.A.E. Scaife, Chair.

Ms S.F. McGurk, Minister for Training.

Ms T. Allen, Chief Executive Officer.

Ms K. Armstrong, Director, Communications and Operations.

Mr L. Baptie, Business Services Manager.

Dr S. Gallacher, Chief of Staff, Minister for Training.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. Questions must relate to the operations and budget of the off-budget authority. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 2 June 2023. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 390. The three line items basically relate to the Construction Futures Centre. Can the minister give me some background on the Construction Futures Centre? Obviously, these are building items as well, but how many people are out there, if that is possible? Any background information would be appreciated.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** The resources sector has contributed over \$60 million to the fund generally. One of the issues for the Futures Centre, I should say, is that because this is a relatively new contribution, it will need to contain exhibits dedicated to the resources sector. The organisation is looking at how it can accommodate that and make sure that it includes a focus on the resources sector. Since opening in 2018, over 20 000 students and members of the industry more broadly have visited the Construction Futures Centre to explore the wide variety of building and construction pathways. There are interactive exhibits, which give young people ideas of what construction is and what careers are available in the industry. The centre has to be cognisant of emerging technologies, so it is designed to be interactive. I visited not that long ago and got to test some of the interactive exhibits. It was great! There is a need for the centre to maintain currency and interest for students. Based on student feedback, capital funding for the Futures Centre has been allocated to refresh several exhibits to enhance student engagement. In fact, the board endorsed an evaluation of the centre and those findings will be reflected in the strategic asset plan to be implemented over the coming years through the upgrades to the Futures Centre exhibits in future budgets. As I said earlier, one issue is that the resources sector has been contributing only in the last four years, so there has been a lag in ensuring that the centre also reflects the particular characteristics of the resources sector rather than just construction—residential, commercial and civil—which it does now.

[8.00 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thanks, minister. I appreciate that. Was the minister or the Futures Centre involved in the recent resources technology showcase at all?

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** I am advised that the centre was in attendance but not as an exhibitor. It is very similar to that sort of layout where there are different interactive opportunities and people explaining what the work is and opportunities for students or even industry people to get involved and simulate driving or project planning, or even doing interactive questionnaires to see what sort of areas within construction they might be interested in.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is there co-investment from the large resources companies or anything like that, or is this operation just funded by the state government?

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** It is all funded by industry levies, as required under the act.

**The CHAIR:** That completes the examination of the Building and Construction Industry Training Board.