

JOBS —PILBARA

727. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Jacqui Boydell, who is away on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to the comments made by the chief executive officer of the City of Karratha in the *Pilbara News* today —

“Karratha today has three times more jobs than Bunbury, it has 10 times more jobs than Midland, and 20 times more jobs than Busselton advertised today,”

...

“We simply don’t have enough people to fill the jobs we need.

- (1) Does the state government support a Pilbara-based designated area migration agreement?
- (2) If no to (1), what is the government doing to ensure businesses in the Pilbara have access to appropriate labour?
- (3) What programs has the government put in place to assist people to move their families to the Pilbara for work?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) As mentioned in the article, not at this stage.
- (2)–(3) The McGowan government’s priority is to put Western Australians first when it comes to securing jobs in WA and makes no apology for that. Beyond that, we also want the people of the Pilbara to see the benefits from the resources projects that happen there. I also note that one of the pull factors for people moving to a particular region or local government authority is the availability of employment. Assuming that the quoted advertisements are correct, it would appear that the City of Karratha is well positioned to attract new residents who wish to work locally.