

**GREAT SOUTHERN REGION**

*Motion*

Resumed from 7 September on the following motion moved by Hon Col Holt —

That this Council commends the Liberal–National government on recognising the importance of the great southern region of Western Australia and applauds the work done by this government to support the communities of that region.

**HON COL HOLT (South West — Parliamentary Secretary)** [1.05 pm] — in reply: How much time do I have in response?

**The PRESIDENT:** You have 15 minutes if you wish to use it. You do not have to.

**Hon COL HOLT:** Thank you. I will sum up the debate. Thank you to all those who contributed to the debate, although I have to say I am a little disappointed in the contribution from Hon Stephen Dawson, who, as highlighted in *Hansard*, could find absolutely nothing in the great southern to congratulate the government on.

**Hon Michael Mischin:** It sounded as though it was a terrible place to live.

**Hon COL HOLT:** He could find absolutely nothing good to say. That was based on his visit with the member for Albany to the Albany region in the great southern. He pointed out some of the potential things that we need to fix in the great southern. It was good of him to highlight them and if he is ever in a position to fix them, I look forward to him doing so, but to find nothing to congratulate the government on was disingenuous.

An opposition member: He doesn't need to; you can do it yourself.

**Hon COL HOLT:** I will do that. He could not even congratulate the government on the new Albany Hospital, the biggest hospital development in regional Western Australia, which cost \$170 million. This government delivered on a project that had been promised to the people of Albany for many years. He could not even see the government's delivery of that project as worth saying it was a job well done. Maybe he needs to talk to the member for Albany because he was there with me, the Premier and the Minister for Health celebrating the opening of that achievement. I do not know when Hon Stephen Dawson went down to look around the great southern, but perhaps he needs to go to some of the spots where I see Peter Watson all the time, such as at the opening of the Albany hospice, Hawthorn House, a magnificent facility, again, delivered for the people of the great southern–Albany region, and a wide range of facilities to offer to the tourism sector. Hon Sally Talbot pointed out that the Anzac centenary was a fantastic event. Again, this government invested in that to make it happen. It worked with the federal government to deliver what was a fantastic experience over the centenary of Anzac. That event, held at the National Anzac Centre, will hold Albany and the great southern region in great stead for many years to come. We have complemented that with a range of initiatives around tourism at Torndirrup National Park, with the cantilever platform at The Gap, and the Castle Rock viewing platform. There was also the funding, in partnership with Discovery Bay, and what that will offer. This government has made a fantastic contribution in working with the local community, local tourism associations and private partners to deliver a fantastic tourism experience for the people of the great southern and for all of Australia to visit, yet Hon Stephen Dawson could not find anything to congratulate the government on. The list goes on. This government has done an enormous amount in Albany and in the great southern. If Peter Watson, the member for Albany, had an opportunity to contribute to this debate, I am sure he would recognise the fact that a lot of funding has gone into supporting his community and our community in the great southern. It is a pity he is not here to do that. It was very disappointing that Hon Stephen Dawson could not find anything at all to congratulate the government on during his contribution.

Much has been done by this government for agriculture in the great southern. Hon Paul Brown highlighted some of those achievements. We continue to explore how we can drive changes in our agricultural systems in regional Western Australia. We know that we are the best producers of food in the world. We market it well to overseas clients and customers, but we know we are on the cusp of driving some better outcomes too because we are investing in Water for Food projects across the state. I remember flying from the north and looking down at what this wonderful, brown state of ours has to offer. The potential that exists across our agricultural and pastoral regions is absolutely outstanding and this government will continue to invest in that. The great southern region will be a great part of that. People will continue to reap the benefits of this government's investment in the great southern. There is more to be done; we all know that. None of those problems go away easily but this government will continue to fix the ones that are there. We have started doing that and will continue to invest.

In closing, I thank all members who have contributed to the debate. I look forward to the government continuing to invest in the Albany and great southern regions.

*Division*

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Hon Martin Aldridge  
Hon Ken Baston  
Hon Liz Behjat  
Hon Jacqui Boydell  
Hon Jim Chown

Hon Peter Collier  
Hon Donna Faragher  
Hon Nick Goiran  
Hon Dave Grills  
Hon Nigel Hallett

Hon Alyssa Hayden  
Hon Col Holt  
Hon Peter Katsambanis  
Hon Mark Lewis  
Hon Rick Mazza

Hon Michael Mischin  
Hon Helen Morton  
Hon Simon O'Brien  
Hon Brian Ellis (*Teller*)

Noes (10)

Hon Robin Chapple  
Hon Alanna Clohesy  
Hon Stephen Dawson

Hon Adele Farina  
Hon Lynn MacLaren  
Hon Martin Pritchard

Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson  
Hon Sally Talbot  
Hon Darren West

Hon Samantha Rowe (*Teller*)

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Pairs

Hon Phil Edman  
Hon Paul Brown

Hon Kate Doust  
Hon Sue Ellery

Question thus passed.