

Mid West Development Commission —

Mr S.J. Price, Chair.

Mr D.T. Punch, Minister for Regional Development.

Ms H. Brayford, Director General.

Mr P. Isaachsen, Deputy Director General, Industry and Economic Development.

Ms M. Carbon, Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity.

Mr P. Gregson, Manager, Funds Management.

Ms C. McConnell, Deputy Director General, Primary Industries Development.

Ms L. Williamson, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr B. Mezzatesta, Executive Director, Operations and Compliance.

Ms M. Teede, Chief Executive Officer, South West Development Commission.

Mr C. Berger, Chief Executive Officer, Kimberley Development Commission.

Mr J. Gardner, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Great Southern Development Commission.

Mr C. Syers, Principal Fisheries Management Officer.

Mr P. Spalding, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mid West Development Commission.

Mr R. Cossart, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission.

Mr T. Palmer, Chief of Staff, Minister for Regional Development.

Mr A. Buck, Senior Policy Adviser.

Mr G. Grounds, Senior Policy Adviser.

Mr A. Skinner, Senior Policy Adviser.

The CHAIR: The member for Roe has the call.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I ask a similar question, if I can, minister, on the FTE situation for the Mid West Development Commission.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Is that a clarification of the total FTE and vacancies, for the record?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is correct; thank you.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I ask Mr Spalding to provide that information.

Mr P. Spalding: We have 11 FTE and two vacancies, but letters of offer are going out next week for those two vacancies.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Sorry; can the adviser repeat that?

Mr P. Spalding: We have 11 FTE. We have two vacancies, but letters of offer for those two vacancies are going out next week.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: In answer to all these questions about FTE, I add that the commissions have the resources of the department to draw on and frequently do so. There are whole teams within the department that support various aspects of the commissions' work, as well as statewide projects. I just wanted to make the point that the commissions do not work in isolation.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Are those resources drawn from 140 William Street?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Although the head office is at Nash Street, the department has staff right around regional Western Australia, so that support can be across a whole number of staffing positions in not only the central office, but also the regions.

Mr R.S. LOVE: What interactions has the Mid West Development Commission had with the Department of State Development around the Oakajee strategic industrial area since the announcement was made about extra support for strategic industrial areas, and the appointment of the coordinator —

Dr D.J. HONEY: The coordinator supreme!

Mr R.S. LOVE: — the coordinator general, Mr Marney? Have there been any interactions with that site?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I will ask Mr Isaachsen to respond to that question in the first instance, but I know that the Mid West Development Commission has been very active in its engagement with the community, the industry and

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Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Donald Punch; Mr Shane Love

business sector and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation in the development of opportunities in that area. But I will ask Mr Isaachsen to make a comment.

Mr P. Isaachsen: Thank you, minister. Both the Mid West Development Commission and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development are members of the midwest industrial areas working group, which has been established through the coordinator general at JTSI specifically to coordinate the additional investment in the midwest strategic industrial areas announced in the budget.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to the upgrade to the road into the Oakajee site that has now been funded. Does the minister have any idea when that will be complete? Also, what is the commitment towards developing timing and a plan for the upgrade of what has been called the ONIC, or the Oakajee Narngulu infrastructure corridor—the road from Narngulu across to Oakajee?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: The timing associated with those projects is still being worked through by the midwest industrial areas development working group. I will put my teeth back in!

The CHAIR: Members, that completes the examination of the Mid West Development Commission.

Meeting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm