

PILBARA STRATEGIC CONSERVATION FUND

981. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

I have a supplementary question. I have been asking the minister about this for the better part of two years. There is potentially some \$65 million that should be flowing into this fund, creating jobs and working towards protecting the environment. Why is the minister still sitting on his hands failing to deliver on this valuable employment generator and valuable opportunity to reform the environment? Why is the minister failing to deliver?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

As I said, by no means are we sitting on our hands. We are fully engaged in this. That \$65 million figure is a little deceptive as well because that is the potential for all of the approved projects —

Mr C.J. Tallentire: So it is \$35 million, is it?

Mr A.P. JACOB: Do not play silly games.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, a quick answer.

Mr A.P. JACOB: What I am saying is that that offset fund is the potential full due amount for the clearing and the impact. Many of those projects have not even started yet. That full amount of money will not flow for years, if not decades, but it represents —

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells!

Mr A.P. JACOB: It will not even flow in many instances for years, if not decades. But the existence of that fund and the conditioning—which I think, given the question, the member clearly agrees with and I think it is a good approach to conditioning to get large-scale environmental outcomes—also carries with it the responsibility to ensure that tens of millions of dollars of offset funds, which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for environmental outcomes in the Pilbara, is a robust governance framework and is spent towards the highest priority outcomes. I will ensure that that is the case.