

WHEATSTONE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT — STEEL FABRICATION WORK

**180. Hon JON FORD to the Minister for Commerce:**

I refer to the Wheatstone liquefied natural gas project.

- (1) How much steel fabrication is expected to be required in the construction of this project?
- (2) How much of this work is it estimated will be done in Western Australian workshops?
- (3) How much of this work is it estimated will be done in other Australian workshops?
- (4) How much of this work is it estimated will be done overseas?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question, which was given on Wednesday, 16 March.

- (1) The Wheatstone project is still in the front-end engineering and design stage, and a final investment decision is not anticipated until the second half of 2011. There is also a range of factors that are yet to be considered that will influence contract outcomes. These include relative price, available capacity at competing locations and comparative demonstrated capability in performing such work. Through the Wheatstone local content steering committee, the government has been informed by Chevron that the project will follow the Gorgon business model in the use of modular construction technology. Chevron will provide a definitive figure as soon as it is reasonable to do so.

(2)–(4) The project is at too early a stage to provide a valid or useful estimate.

I add—I am sure the member will be glad to hear this—that the government is keen to use all the influence that it has at its disposal to make sure that we maximise the amount of opportunities that are available for local fabricators to compete for this work.