

NELSON POINT TUG HAVEN AND LUMSDEN POINT — PORT HEDLAND

686. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's strong investment in job creation and driving economic projects across regional Western Australia. Can the minister update the house on the projects currently underway in Port Hedland to support trade in the Pilbara, including Nelson Point Tug Haven and Lumsden Point, and can the minister outline how this government's investment in the regions will deliver greater economic prosperity and more jobs for Western Australians into the future?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Geraldton for her question.

As part of the economic recovery from COVID-19, we are seeing projects being rolled out across the state. We have a booming economy in Western Australia, and, across regional WA, record regional investment from this government, including throughout the Pilbara and Port Hedland. I often talk about our roads, but, of course, our port expansions and new facilities will facilitate more trade, investment and jobs into the future. Last week, we awarded a \$29 million contract to Austral Construction for the design and construction of a new revetment wall for the Nelson Point Tug Haven. Those works will continue to facilitate further expansions at the port and further trade. Importantly, millions of dollars of work will be going to a local Pilbara-based company.

Yesterday, another key asset of the Pilbara and Western Australian economies became operational with the first cargo vessel's arrival at Lumsden Point. Thanks to FMG and the Pilbara Ports Authority working together, this is a multi-user facility and logistics hub that will continue to support cargo imports into the port and direct shipping services to facilitate further trade. Other works include a record amount of roadworks and the Spoilbank Marina. The member for Pilbara is not here, but the Spoilbank Marina is progressing very well. Those who have been up there will see the significant work that is happening there. This is part of our strategy of protecting the WA economy by protecting Western Australians' health. We are making sure that we emerge from this COVID pandemic stronger than ever before. Everything we are doing is all about making sure that we protect Western Australians' health and protect our economy.

I am sorry, members, but look at that sad bunch on the other side. I do not know who writes the questions for those five—maybe it is the anti-vaxxers out there—but they are pathetic. They look at their phones, never actually engage in the debate and they asked questions on climate change, which I thought were Dorothy Dixers! We will continue our program of protecting the health of Western Australians and the health of the economy to make sure that we emerge stronger and better than ever. Wherever we look in Western Australia, we can see throughout the economy booming demand, booming exports and jobs being created for all Western Australians.