

JOBS — REGIONS

**435. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to maximising local content, creating local jobs and supporting local businesses.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the Western Australian Jobs Act is providing more opportunities for Western Australian businesses, in particular those in regional WA?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this is helping to create more jobs for Western Australians?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. The member for Geraldton knows how important it is to make sure that we, as a government, can provide prosperity through jobs, and keep people safe and provide them with great health and wellbeing. That is nowhere more important than it is in regional Western Australia. One thing that this government has focused on is to make creating jobs for people throughout the state a fundamental tenet of everything that we do. In October 2018, the Western Australian industry participation strategy—or WAIPS as it is known—was launched as a requirement of the Western Australian Jobs Act. The jobs act, of course, was enacted after the government came to office in 2017.

WAIPS is a keystone component of the government's commitment to WA jobs and ensures that local businesses benefit from an even greater share of the \$30 billion worth of procurement that state governments undertake each year. Under WAIPS, prospective suppliers are required to submit participation plans to outline their commitments to employ and involve local WA businesses in supply opportunities. Once a contract is awarded, the approved participation plan is incorporated into the contracts of the successful suppliers to ensure that they deliver upon their commitments to local industry. Successful bidders are required to report on the fulfilment of their plans.

As I said previously, the government has a lot of reasons to be happy about the work that is being done under the jobs act. In fact, I am sure that all members will be very happy to hear that there are 43 000 reasons to be happy—43 000 jobs have been created as a result of WAIPS. More than 450 plans have been received, which have committed to those 43 000 jobs, of which 12 000 were created in regional WA. On top of that, 2 800 apprenticeships and traineeships have been supported by WAIPS, of which 986 are in regional WA. This underscores our commitment to ensure that we continue to skill up our young people and provide them with the opportunity to get the training and the jobs that they need to thrive in our community.

Let us be under no illusion: a lot of hard work is still to be done on the constraints around our workforce and skills, which is why the government had a skills summit recently, which created a lot of really good outcomes and engagement with industry about what we need to do to continue to create opportunities for our young people. However, supporting more than 43 000 jobs in less than three years shows that the Western Australian Jobs Act is working, creating opportunities for local businesses and apprentices, and making sure that we keep Western Australians in a prosperous, safe, happy and healthy place.