

MYALUP–WELLINGTON WATER PROJECT

879. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the proposed Myalup–Wellington water project.

- (1) Has the preliminary business case for the Collie to Coast proposal—that is, the below-the-dam-wall components—been completed; and, if so, when was it completed?
- (2) Does the full \$140 million grant and \$40 million loan commitment from the federal government announced in March 2018 remain committed?
- (3) Does the full \$37 million committed by the state in January 2017 and reconfirmed by the minister on 28 July 2017 remain committed?
- (4) How much of the committed state and federal funding will be redirected, and what are the geographical boundaries or limits of any proposed alternative scheme that uses the redirected funding?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. It has a tone of familiarity about it, but I am happy to answer.

- (1) The preliminary business case will be considered as part of the market-led proposal stage 2 evaluation process, which is expected to be completed in early 2023. As I understand it, that is proceeding well.
- (2) The federal government’s 2022–23 budget—the last budget under the last government—retained the \$140 million commitment for future water infrastructure projects in Western Australia. The federal government moved it out of a bucket of funding specifically for that project and into general funding. We gave the same argument in our case to the current federal government as we gave for the other scheme: we are getting only two per cent and that can hardly be cut. The option of a \$50 million concessional loan remains available, subject to a third party being capable of underwriting the loan.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The state funding remains committed to support water security for growers in the Myalup–Wellington region. As aforementioned, the federal funding is currently retained for future projects in Western Australia, subject to the submission of a robust business case.