

RESOURCES SECTOR — SALES

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [2.08 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house that Western Australia's resources sector continued to break records in 2020, with sales of \$174 billion. Statistics from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety reveal that iron ore led the way, with record sales of \$116 billion. Iron ore accounted for 79 per cent of mineral sales and 66 per cent of all mineral and petroleum sales in 2020. Gold was also a strong performer, with more than \$17 billion in sales, which is an all-time high, thanks to the high average gold price. Nickel sales increased to \$3.3 billion, which is the highest value in six years. In other good news, mineral sands sales increased to \$829 million and salt sales to \$431 million.

Employment in the resources sector also set new records. An average of almost 141 000 people worked in the industry last year. More than \$20 billion was invested in Western Australia's resources sector, which is an increase from \$17 billion in 2019. This represents the highest level since 2017.

WA and its resources sector have successfully navigated the pandemic to deliver these impressive figures. The sector kept not only WA's economy pumping, but also the nation's economy afloat. The sector's success in trading uninterrupted since the onset of the pandemic has enhanced our global reputation as a reliable and safe supplier of commodities. During a year made difficult by COVID-19, our exports enabled our Asian trading partners to keep their economies going, sustaining millions of jobs and livelihoods for their citizens. Our exports have also given WA a powerful competitive edge as the world's economy recovers. With around \$140 billion of resource projects in the pipeline, WA's future continues to look promising. The McGowan government's strong management of the COVID-19 pandemic has meant WA's economic recovery continues to outperform many other jurisdictions in Australia and around the world.