

ALBANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

593. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Minister for Education:

On behalf of the member for Albany, I refer to the \$1.5 million investment in public education capital works being delivered by the Cook Labor government.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this significant investment is delivering new and improved facilities across Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the new performing arts centre at Albany Senior High School will benefit the Albany community?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood very much for the question on behalf of the member for Albany, who has been an outstanding advocate for the improvement of educational facilities in her electorate.

- (1)–(2) Last Friday, I had the great pleasure to be down in beautiful Albany with the Premier as we officially opened the beautiful new performing arts centre at Albany Senior High School. This event was eagerly anticipated by the staff, students and wider community. This government is all about ensuring the community can also enjoy beautiful school facilities like performing arts centres and sporting facilities.

This centre was a \$9 million project that included a large stage, green room, specialist music facilities, foyer—just like a real theatre—and retractable seating for 200 people, with space for another 50 loose seats if required, plus storerooms. Albany Senior High School has a strong history of performing arts talent, and has famous alumni such as the current member for Albany, former Premier Alan Carpenter and famous singer Ross Ryan. I have been educating the Premier on Ross Ryan as I think the Premier only knows about the “King”, Elvis Presley. Ross Ryan is an alumni of Albany Senior High School and has an interesting history. He wrote the song *I Am Pegasus*. If members have not heard it, I invite them to go on Spotify to listen to it—actually, it may not be on Spotify anymore, but they will be able to find it somewhere. It is a brilliant song. Ross Ryan was a graduate of Albany Senior High School, and he would have loved to perform in the new performing arts centre at Albany Senior High School.

Albany Senior High School is celebrating its 100th year, and this is a great milestone of that history. It has an incredibly vibrant instrumental music program, and these facilities will be utilised by students and staff members. This is part of our government’s commitment to build infrastructure in our public education system to ensure that we have facilities available for students, staff and the wider community. I know that the member for Albany will enjoy going to performances at this beautiful new centre. It was an incredibly proud moment to be there with the Premier, the member for Albany and the wider Albany community to officially open this fantastic facility. This is part of the Cook government’s commitment to delivering infrastructure projects across the state. It is one of 60 infrastructure projects in our education system that have been completed in the last 12 months. We have completed 60 educational infrastructure building and upgrade projects in the last 12 months, which is an outstanding achievement by any government in history.

The SPEAKER: The member for Cottesloe has the last question.