

PUBLIC SECTOR — WAGES

1038. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the minister representing the Treasurer:

When can public sector workers expect an offer for their pay and conditions that will keep them in the crucial jobs needed to power Western Australia now and into the future?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The McGowan government continues to listen to workers and unions as bargaining negotiations continue. Western Australia's public sector wages offer is more generous than other Australian states, including New South Wales and Victoria, where the cost of living is significantly higher. It includes a one-off \$3 000 cost-of-living payment, in addition to increases of \$3 120 or three per cent, whichever is higher. It applies to more than 150 000 public sector workers, with the shift away from the previous \$1 000 wages policy costing more than \$3.3 billion. It is crucial that the state continues to have the capacity to respond to future events, including a potential global recession, which would have significant ramifications.