

BARNES FEDERAL THEATRE

**86. Hon ROBIN SCOTT to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the McGowan government's pre-election promise to spend \$100 000 on renovating the Barnes Federal Theatre in Leonora.

- (1) Does the government intend to honour its promise?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), how can the people of Leonora expect to wait until renovation works are underway?
- (4) Will the government commit to spending the extra funds required to bring the Barnes Federal Theatre back to an operational standard?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) I do find the member's line of questioning really quite surprising. I think that it is fair to say that we have been in government for less than two months and, of course, member, we have every intention of honouring all our election commitments. Obviously, we do not just have piles of cash lying around and then put them into envelopes and post them out. There is actually a budget and governance framework. But we have made it very clear that those small election commitments, such as this one, have priority and are being worked on. The Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission is ready to enter into a formal funding agreement with the Shire of Leonora, which I expect will be forthcoming in weeks. The commitment that was made for \$100 000 was part of a larger project. It was a contribution to the project, and the shire advised us at the time that this was what it thought was needed from us. It would enable the shire to leverage further grants once it had this money. We understand that the shire is working on that leverage and is completing the plans for the renovation as we speak.