

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS — REGIONS

Statement

HON ROBIN SCOTT (Mining and Pastoral) [9.24 pm]: I would like to use my member's statement to comment on the speeches made today by Hon Kyle McGinn and Hon Darren West. They were brilliant and really great speeches. I am sorry that I will not be around to see these promised projects take place in regional Western Australia. In fact, if I lived in Perth and heard these speeches, I would be quite jealous that all this time and money is going to be spent in regional WA. But make no mistake, they will make a huge difference to the constituents of regional WA. There are promises for projects to upgrade sporting facilities in many regional towns. Some men's sheds will get upgrades. One of them is getting a kitchen, which I believe means that it will be able to compete with the local muffin companies. Laverton has been promised a go-kart track—again. It is a great idea. The government is going to spend \$80 000 to do that. It is fantastic. There will be funding for upgrades to historic buildings in Leonora. The government is going to spend \$100 000. I am not sure how much of an upgrade we will get for \$100 000, but anyway it is still good. The sealing of the Goldfields Highway between Meekatharra and Wiluna is going ahead very, very slowly, I have to say. But it is still progressing. Of the 184 kilometres of original road, we still have 119 kilometres to do.

All these wonderful things are happening during the forty-first Parliament, and I can only assume that the promised projects are a reward for giving the Premier McGowan and his government a vote of confidence and a second term. Many of the promises were requested three or four years, but fell on deaf ears. Nonetheless, they have been promised and I am sure the opposition will keep a close eye on the start and finish dates of these projects. My only concern is that there was no mention of the progress of the Laverton Hospital upgrade or the camping facilities for visitors who come in from the lands that the Shire of Laverton has asked for. Maybe they can camp overnight at the go-kart facilities, provided it will have running water and toilet facilities. I doubt \$80 000 will be enough to provide those facilities. The upgrade of the historic buildings in Leonora is great, but I would like to hear that the aged-care facility in Leonora will be upgraded to 16 units as originally planned, instead of the eight units that the town is now getting. The Wiluna road is progressing at a snail's pace. I am glad that local people are getting the opportunity to learn, to be trained and to get jobs; however, if they want to compete in a very competitive market, they will have to be prepared to go to work every day if they want to win contracts. Sadly, there was a fatality on the Meekatharra to Wiluna road yesterday, when a truck driver rolled his truck. Unfortunately, he died.

There was no mention of the nursing posts in the midwest towns of Yalgoo, Mt Magnet and Cue. The shires of those three towns have been begging for an upgrade to the facilities. Those facilities are very, very poor and undermanned. The towns want better facilities and hopefully two nurses to man the posts. There was no mention of the Meekatharra Hospital upgrade. The hospital is slowly falling apart and has been for many years. Going back to Kalgoorlie–Boulder, elective surgery is now cancelled due to the lack of nurses and doctors. Maybe with the sporting facilities being upgraded in the town it may entice them to the goldfields. I know I sound a bit cynical; it is because I am. But with a bit of luck, I hope, honourable members in the Labor Party who represent the Mining and Pastoral Region will prove me wrong in the very near future. Let us hope that the party of the bush comes good with its promises.

House adjourned at 9.29 pm
