

JOBS — HMAS *STIRLING*

103. Mr H.T. JONES to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's ongoing campaign to diversify the Western Australian economy, including in the defence sector.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house the latest development in attracting new investment to Western Australia that will provide local jobs for decades to come?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house what this investment will mean for Western Australians?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Darling Range, a distinguished naval officer, for his question. He is very distinguished. He looks like a distinguished naval officer these days, with his beard! Technically, I should call him sir, because he is a lieutenant commander and I retired as a lieutenant, so he is actually my senior officer. Thank you for your question, sir!

- (1)–(2) Today's announcement by the commonwealth government is worth billions of dollars to Western Australia. It means a significant investment in HMAS *Stirling* of around \$8 billion of capital works and so forth to expand the base and create around 3 000 jobs in construction, maintenance and so forth. That will include wharf upgrades, operational maintenance and logistics training, supporting infrastructure outside HMAS *Stirling*, and I suspect a fair amount at Henderson, at the Australian Marine Complex. There is a fair amount of work to be done there. Then, with what is called the rotational force, the expectation is there will be 500 jobs ongoing out of that. However, once the submarines are fully Australian flagged and based at HMAS *Stirling*, I suspect the job numbers will be in the thousands in Western Australia, because a great deal of the maintenance will be undertaken at the Australian Marine Complex and a lot of work will be done to ensure that maintenance can be undertaken there.

A great deal of training will also be put in place, particularly at South Metropolitan TAFE. At the moment, more than 16 300 students are studying defence-related qualifications and skills. There will be a great deal more of that as well. It is a significant investment in capital works, training skills and other matters for Western Australia. Obviously, provisioning and supply for all this new equipment will be a boost to local contractors and local suppliers to defence. It is obviously a major investment by the commonwealth government as well, so, in terms of the overall investment, I suppose we could say that Western Australia and South Australia are the big winners when it comes to jobs, skills and spend. Obviously, we will want to see that maximised here in Western Australia.