

GERALDTON HEALTH CAMPUS — REDEVELOPMENT

195. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant investment in regional hospitals and health services.

Will the minister update the house on this investment, including an update on the much-needed expansion to Geraldton Health Campus, and outline to the house what this investment in health services will mean for those not only in my community, but also right across regional WA?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

That is a good question, and I thank the member for it. I am very pleased to be able to report on the McGowan government's commitment to investment in Geraldton Health Campus. I remember when I first came to this place as shadow Minister for Health. I went to visit Geraldton Health Campus and they talked about the great work that the Gallop Labor government had done in the first stage of the development of that hospital, creating a modern health campus in Geraldton. It is the jewel in the crown of midwest health services.

I was then saddened to see, over the following eight and a half years, not a dollar of investment being spent on that hospital, so it is with great pride that I report that the McGowan government's \$73.3 million investment in Geraldton Health Campus will put patients first in the midwest region. It will involve an expansion of the emergency department, including a four-bed mental health short-stay unit; integrated mental health services, including a 12-bed—four secure and eight open—adult health inpatient unit, with a co-located mental health community treatment team; expanded critical care services, including the relocation of four high-dependency unit beds and the establishment of four intensive care unit beds into a combined intensive care unit—high-dependency unit; and an essential engineering services upgrade, including replacement of the chillers. Also, 2D and 3D artists have been selected through an expression of interest process as part of the Percent for Art Scheme. Extensive community engagement is planned to ensure that midwest residents and groups have input into the final art pieces. Excitingly, the exterior and other spaces will incorporate art elements that reflect the region's Aboriginal cultural landmarks, industries and history.

As of 1 April, the \$8.54 million forward works package at Geraldton Health Campus has met practical completion. The completion of forward works has delivered a new hospital main entrance on the southern side of the campus, with a covered canopy and a public bus parking area. However, the most important element—an element that I know the member for Geraldton is particularly excited about—is that we have supported the hospital's services for consumers with the delivery of 422 new parking bays, bringing the total number of parking bays to 840. We know that health consumers around the world judge a hospital on two things: first, whether they can eat the food, and second, whether they can park at the hospital! It is really pleasing to see that these forward works have now taken place.

We will soon move into the advanced works of the redevelopment of the hospital, which will see construction beginning in the last quarter of 2021. That will include the expanded emergency department and integrated mental health works, which are expected to be completed by 2023, with the balance of works in intensive care and the expanded HDU expected to be completed in 2024.

I am really excited about the great progress we are making at this hospital. We have broken the hospital contracts down into smaller, bite-size pieces so that local subcontractors can get the rewards of being successful in winning those contracts and therefore getting local workers to do that work. It means that the community, by and large, can continue to see growth in this great hospital. The last time there was a major investment in Geraldton Health Campus was under the Gallop Labor government; stage 2 is now galloping forward under the McGowan Labor government!