



Premier of Western Australia

Our Reference: 59-082354/MLU

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2018 regarding Petition No. 077 – Pilbara Improvement Levy.

The McGowan Government is committed to delivering significant investment into the Pilbara with a focus on projects that create employment, diversify the economy, support Aboriginal growth and development and deliver important infrastructure and services.

On 24 November 2017, the State Government signed an agreement with the resources industry to deliver further social and economic benefits to the Pilbara community.

The Pilbara Collaboration Charter was signed by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy Chief Executive, and leaders from across Western Australia's biggest resources companies.

The charter builds on the industry's existing social and economic contributions, and was developed by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy in collaboration with BHP, Chevron Australia, CITIC Pacific Mining, Fortescue Metals Group, Rio Tinto Ore, Roy Hill, Woodside and Yara Pilbara.

The first priority for the charter is employment, education and training, particularly the development of pathways to job creation. Other areas included in the charter include community development and health, procurement and supply chain and joint project initiatives.

Under the WA Labor Plan for the Pilbara, more than \$1 billion has been allocated in the 2018-19 State Budget towards important capital works in the Pilbara over the next four years as well as substantial funding to improve the delivery of education, health and community services.

Some of the key projects that are being delivered in the Pilbara include:

Karratha/Tom Price Road - \$52 million

The Karratha/Tom Price Road is a key link between West Pilbara coastal and inland communities. The sealing of the road is considered critical to the economic growth of the region and will benefit the resources and tourism industries as well as improving road conditions. This investment will see the completion of Stage 3, being the sealing of a 50-kilometre section of the Roebourne to Wittenoom Road.

Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina - \$92 million

Announced in October 2018, this project will deliver a marina, a two-lane boat ramp, breakwaters and revetment wall and a separate access channel. Landside works will incorporate new public open spaces, retail/commercial pop up facilities, improved parking and facilities that will provide opportunity for waterside recreation, outdoor activities and improved beach access.

Transforming Agriculture in the Pilbara - \$5.9 million

This project is aimed at ground-proofing soil and water resources in the Pilbara for potential horticulture, fodder and field crop production. Government is working in partnership with industry on prospective irrigation systems research activities to optimise productivity from suitable land and water resources and will also investigate the potential for commercial production of native foods for premium markets.

Refurbishment of the Victoria Hotel in Roebourne - \$2 million

The restoration of this landmark building in Roebourne will facilitate tourism, training and business opportunities with a focus on improving economic and social outcomes for local Aboriginal people. The redevelopment has provided employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people including prisoners from the Roebourne Regional Prison and participants in the Commonwealth Government's Community Development Program.

Regional Economic Development Grants - \$6.3 million (Round 1)

The Regional Economic Development Grants will boost investment in regional projects that contribute to economic growth initiatives, local marketing and innovation pilots, that are driven by local communities. A total of \$22.5 million is allocated to the Regional Development Grants program over four years to be shared across Western Australia's nine regions.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



Mark McGowan MLA
PREMIER

30 NOV 2018