

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Date of Hearing: 25 May 2023

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**Division 14: Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**

***[Supplementary Information No. A6]***

*Question: Ms M. BEARD asked: Is it possible to get an indication of what some of those legacy projects are? I guess they would be across the region and not just in Exmouth.*

*Answer: Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, absolutely. I will undertake to provide some supplementary information. We spent over \$800 000 on a total solar eclipse round of grants under the local capability fund. That provided a range of grants that local businesses and local government authorities could take advantage of. A classic example was the installation of a new pizza oven at Whalebone Brewing so that it could meet the needs of the people visiting. That will be in place forever. I will provide supplementary information on the legacy items made available for the total solar eclipse event, plus a list of the successful recipients of the local capability fund's total solar eclipse round of grants.*

*Answer:*

The Government's investment of almost \$22 million in announced funding provided a safe and enjoyable event for all with upgrades and improvements to roads, marine infrastructure, telecommunication networks and local facilities that will provide a lasting legacy for the region.

These include:

- Infrastructure upgrades in preparation for motorists travelling to and across the region including rest area upgrades on the Minilya-Exmouth Road;
- Telecommunications upgrades including new mobile base stations and the upgrade of base stations across the region;
- The installation of permanent water infrastructure;
- Upgrade of the Mandu Mandu Kitchen at the Ningaloo Centre in Exmouth (to provide catering for TSE visitors based at temporary camping facilities in Exmouth);
- Eight different projects across Carnarvon and Coral Bay including upgrading the Carnarvon Visitor Centre, new car parking in both towns and the refurbishment of existing Coral Bay ablutions, water fill and sewerage disposal points for caravans and campers;
- Upgrades to Town Beach Playground in Carnarvon and the delivery of a sculpture for the community;
- Upgrades to Ocean View Caravan Park for the Shire of Ashburton in Onslow, with an increase in overflow camping capacity;

- Maintenance, inspections and upgrades on the moorings within Ningaloo Marine Park were undertaken to assist with security of vessels when not on patrol;
- Build and installation of dump point sites within Nynggulu Coastal Reserves and the build of tanks for other sites; and
- Maintenance grading and minor repair works to gravel spur roads within Cape Range National Park.

In addition, the Government implemented a Local Capability Fund round to support local Gascoyne and Pilbara businesses helping prepare for the event on 20 April with funding available up to a maximum \$25,000 per application. Forty businesses successfully applied for the grants totalling more than \$837,000.

