

**House:** Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 May 2006  
**Member:** Hill, Mr Shane; **SPEAKER;** Carpenter, Mr Alan  
**Subject:** RESOURCES SECTOR  
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## RESOURCES SECTOR

### 190. Mr S.R. HILL to the Premier:

Can the Premier please advise the house of the latest progress in Western Australia's booming resources sector?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, this will be about my electorate!

### Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I am very grateful for the question. It is very interesting to see that in the past two or three weeks there has been such a strong result for the Western Australian economy. If we go back for three or four weeks, we see there is even more good news. Either today or yesterday Access Economics released its investment monitor for March 2006, stating that there was \$121.8 billion worth of current and potential investment proposals in Western Australia. This is a \$4 billion increase on the December 2005 quarter. The value of Western Australian projects listed as under construction now stands at \$19.1 billion, an increase of 8.8 per cent since the December quarter. That was a 51.5 per cent increase over the previous year. The value of projects listed as committed increased by 8.5 per cent in the March quarter to \$5 billion. The value of Western Australian projects under consideration now stands at \$52.1 billion, an increase of 4.6 per cent since the December quarter, and 37 per cent over last year. The mining and metal industries dominate current and potential projects in Western Australia. Western Australian projects account for almost 65 per cent of all national projects, both current and potential, in one sector over the quarter.

In the past couple of weeks - this is in your electorate, Mr Speaker - we had the official opening of the **Burrup fertiliser** plant. Two weeks ago we held a press conference with **Burrup Fertilisers** Pty Ltd to announce the completion of its \$700 million ammonia plant - the world's largest - located on the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia's Pilbara. The plant is the first major Indian capital investment in WA. What an extremely exciting breakthrough that is for the state's economy.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Is this a ministerial statement?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** The Leader of the Opposition was there. It was a good day, was it not?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** It was fantastic.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** It was good. It is value-adding gas processing to the industry. The Leader of the Opposition supported that, which is a very good thing.

More than 1 100 jobs created during the plant's construction phase all went well, and about 100 people will be employed in full-time production. With the Oakajee industrial estate - a project dear to the heart of the member for Cottesloe - we have actually made something out of nothing. Growth has happened in the mid-west because of investment in the port of Geraldton. We have seen a new industry blossom -

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Oakajee is now under way. Talking about long-held dreams, how long have people waited, especially members of the Hancock family, for the Hope Downs dream to become reality? Last week we announced the approval of the \$1.3 billion Hope Downs iron ore project. It was a very good day. There were a lot of difficulties in bringing that project to fruition, but there it is. A new mine located in the Pilbara will create 1 300 new jobs; 1 000 during peak construction and 300 in permanent operations. On top of all that, there was the heads of agreement between Tokyo Gas Company and Woodside Petroleum Ltd - another boost for your electorate, Mr Speaker; the agreement between Kansai Electric Power Company and Woodside - another boost for your electorate, Mr Speaker; the reopening announcement of the Koolan Island iron ore project facilitated by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs; and the \$1.5 billion expansion of Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, which will go ahead as well eventually.

Mr Speaker, we are living in great times. It is important for us to make sure that we operate effectively, efficiently and with financial credibility during these great times; if we do not, investors will go somewhere else. What we have done in Geraldton is a prime example of how we can create opportunities for investment and see great benefit come. We have done that all over Western Australia in the past four to five years. Our state finances have been well managed and we are reaping the rewards of it. We need to invest beyond the boom for what is coming over the horizon. We have to do that and we will.