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Local jobs boom

More than 1000 jobs are set to be created in the Collie region as a group of projects worth more than \$500 million comes online in the South-West.

Collie will be home to seven of the 25 State Government-funded projects, but details about the number of jobs to be created had been lacking.

It has now been revealed that projects flowing from the Collie Futures Industry Attraction Fund and the Collie Futures Fund, coupled with the Myalup-Wellington Project, Lake Kepwari Project, local road improvements, the Collie Motorplex works and the Minnipup Pool project will bring a total of 1259 jobs to the region, with the potential for more to be added in the future.

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"Job creation is important in any town. It is especially important to Collie as we would love some diversity to our job industry to provide more opportunities for those that live here and security to our future," she said.

"The flow-on effects mean that more people will invest in our economy, local businesses have more money spent in them, which can have a flow-on effect for more jobs. Small business employs one-half of the private sector, so it's important to support them for continued growth. I already know of two businesses expanding due to some of the announcements."

Premier Mark McGowan said the State Government was committed to diversifying the economy, creating sustainable, long-term jobs for local workers and encouraging more visitors

"Our number one priority is creating local jobs, and we understand that industry changes can lead to uncertainty," he said.

"That's why we are committed [to] leveraging off government investment and working with the private sector, to get the best possible deal for local workers and businesses.

"We've also put a lot of focus on growing tourism opportunities like cycling and walking trails, upgrading visitor infrastructure, putting on more affordable flights to the regions - making the South-West far more accessible in order to attract more visitors and to boost the local economy and create jobs."

The jobs figures were released in the wake of the announcement that 70-80 jobs would be lost when Muja Power Station's Stage C Units closed from 2022.

<https://www.colliemail.com.au/story/6339297/local-jobs-boom/?cs=1443>