

ALCOA — ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [10.10 pm]: Noting the interest last week in the dispute at Alcoa, I thought I would update the house on where it is at the moment. Alcoa has continued to push to try to strike out the enterprise bargaining agreement—an enterprise bargaining agreement negotiated over approximately 30 years of regular negotiations, with Alcoa being operational in Western Australia for over 50 years. There has been a good relationship that is slowly being soured. The negotiations were around an enterprise bargaining agreement that saw the bounty distributed not just to the shareholders of the company in abundance, but also to its employees. We need to remember that 1 600 families of our constituents will be savagely impacted by the course of action Alcoa is taking. I hope that Alcoa can see its way clear to not only try to stop this direction that it is going in in striking out this agreement, but also grow up, start acting maturely and return to the table to start negotiating with its workforce. I do not know why a company would think that it is in its best interests to be at war with its workforce. So often we hear companies say that the workforce is the thing they want to look after the most. Here we have a company that has taken on its workforce, declared war and is holding a gun to its head. I think it would be most mature and most definitely in the positive to stop this action at the Fair Work Commission, and return to the table with the union and its workforce and come up with, as they have in many years past, a good outcome for itself, its shareholders, its workforce and our constituents.