

SINO IRON — CLIVE PALMER

The SPEAKER: The member for Forrestfield.

Mr S.J. PRICE: Thank you, Your Excellency!

Several members interjected.

309. MR S.J. PRICE to the Premier:

On behalf of the member for Wanneroo, I welcome the student leaders and Ms Block from Carramar Primary School here today.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house how the McGowan Labor government is continuing to attract investment in Western Australia, grow the state's economy and create jobs?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house if he is aware of anyone who is putting that investment at risk and threatening Western Australian jobs?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for the question.

- (1)–(2) We are determined to provide confidence to the business community to invest in Western Australia and ensure that we can get on with the job of getting the state back on track and creating jobs. Since we have been in office, 37 000 jobs have been created in Western Australia. Recently, we saw Fortescue Metals Group's Eliwana project take a big step forward, with the Environmental Protection Authority recommending approval. We saw FMG commit \$3.7 billion towards the Iron Bridge project. The Deloitte Access Economics report from March showed that there was \$19.4 billion worth of investment projects under construction, and that is a 10.3 per cent increase on the previous quarter. Yesterday, we saw the Chevron and Brookfield arrangement to build a magnificent new building at Elizabeth Quay. We are working with Woodside and other joint-venture partners to get the Browse and Scarborough projects to a final investment decision. We are hopeful about a final investment decision on both of those projects this year, next year or in early 2021. That is something the government has worked on constructively with those companies. They are very major projects—multibillion-dollar projects—and they do not happen overnight, but they will create thousands of jobs.

I am growing increasingly concerned about someone who is posing a threat not just to investment but to jobs in Western Australia. Clive Palmer is directly threatening more than 3 000 jobs at the Sino Iron project in the Pilbara. Clive Palmer, who has made many millions out of that project, is now stopping Sino Iron from expanding and operating properly. The state government is continuing to explore its legal options regarding Clive Palmer's threat to the more than 3 000 Western Australians who work on the Sino Iron project. Mr Palmer does not employ anyone on that project. He milks more than \$1 million a day cash from the Chinese investors and then attacks Chinese investment. He is a greedy hypocrite. He is running a disgraceful attack on our biggest trading partner. Mr Palmer takes and does not give. He does not pay his workers. He rips off Aboriginal people. He is threatening Western Australian jobs. He has moved his company to Singapore. It is disappointing and dangerous that the Liberal Party has entered into a preference deal with Mr Palmer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope, Mr Speaker —

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Hillarys.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope the Leader of the Opposition —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have warned you four times; I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope the Leader of the Opposition does not support this preference deal and still supports this government's efforts to resolve the issues between Sino Iron and Mr Palmer, including potential legislation.