

CORONAVIRUS — JOBS — QANTAS

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [5.26 pm]: It might come as a surprise that I would commend the efforts of the federal government in its attempts to save the jobs of many hardworking Australians and Western Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe that the delivery has been quite wasteful but considering the speed with which it had to be introduced, some forgiveness is due. At least the federal government understands that during this time of uncertainty, it is important that workers have the peace of mind that they and their families have a future and will get through this challenge. This makes me all the more furious that an Australian icon is thumbing its nose at Australian people in their hour of need. I understand that Qantas' chief executive officer, Alan Joyce, has decided to outsource 2 500 ground crew jobs around Australia. These are not jobs that have disappeared because of the pandemic; rather, they are jobs that still need to be done for the company, although just not with directly employed staff. While the federal government has spent millions, even billions of dollars, maintaining the link between employers and employees through JobKeeper, Qantas and Alan Joyce think that it is a good time to spurn their employees and make the statement that another company can do these jobs better—or probably more cheaply. I say to Alan Joyce and Qantas that this is not the time. Qantas is an Australian icon and has been for many years. Please do the right thing by your employees and all of Australia.