

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Statement

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [5.48 pm]: Earlier today, I had the chance to move a motion during non-government business. I thank Hon Donna Faragher, Hon Peter Collier, Hon Michael Mischin, Hon Darren West, Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Alison Xamon for their contributions to the debate. There was quite a bit of toing and froing and interjections during the debate, which is normal for that sort of discussion. I want to highlight a couple of things. The Leader of the House asked me why I had not asked questions in the house or spoken to the Department of Education before putting it into a motion. One reason I did it this way is that I have asked questions previously about Landsdale Farm School and got no answers, so I find it easier sometimes to have a debate in the house. I wanted to mention that.

In my book, I brought on my motion because the measures were mean-spirited and not needed to repair the budget. That has been discussed on many occasions, so that was a good reason for bringing the motion to the house. There were very many foreseeable consequences, and they seem to have happened. Yes, the government talks about saving money and paying debt, and I commend it on its efforts to do that. It is all about getting the priorities right. We understand that the cuts in these areas were not needed. We also talked about education and law and order and health. These sorts of matters are better handled in the realms of the government's responsibilities. From the letters that have come to me and the comments I have received from the public, this has not been very well handled. The transformation to privatisation has also not been handled well. We have talked about the raid on institutions. We talked about the reduction to the boarding away from home allowance. We talked about the six camp schools and the increase to VacSwim. We also talked about Landsdale Farm. If I could see that there was to be a full review of the impacts on these institutions and, more importantly, the people whom it affects, that would give me great confidence looking into the future.

I wanted this opportunity to reply to the members' comments. Hon Alison Xamon made a comment about the gold tax. My motivation for voting against the gold tax was the job losses. We have never received a donation from the gold industry. We are more than likely not going to get one. I have not been to the Chamber of Minerals and Energy for over 18 months. Whatever comment was made, she intimated that we were in its grip. That is a load of rubbish and should be well above a member of Parliament.