

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — RELOCATION

781. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's comments in this place yesterday —

This is not a question of expense; this is a question of timeliness and a question of making sure that we can develop a world-class facility in a time that is acceptable.

Given that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women medical specialists have stated in a letter that buildings and beds should be considered to support best patient care rather than define it, does the Premier accept that building this facility based on a time frame only will compromise clinical outcomes?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

No, obviously I do not accept that argument. It sounded like a confused collection of thoughts at any rate. I think it is very clear that we put on the record that if those opposite get elected, they want to cancel the construction of the women's and babies' hospital. We often accuse those opposite of not having policies, but we are now starting to see a few trickle through. First, they will cancel the construction of the women's and babies' hospital, delaying that facility somewhere between 10 and 20 years. Second, from the conversations and utterances that we hear going on over there, they will reintroduce logging of native old-growth forests. Third, we now know, particularly from the Nationals, that they will reintroduce whaling in Western Australia. I thought we were beyond a few debates, but every now and then they get rustled up by the Tories opposite as they take us back to the future. I thought that the 1970s was beyond even them! I am happy to fight the Liberals and the Nationals on these three key policy questions. We will continue with our ban on logging in native old-growth forests, we will continue our ban on whaling, in addition to the vast majority of the international community, and we will make sure that this mob does not cancel the construction of the women's and babies' hospital.

Ms L. METTAM: I have a supplementary question.

Mr R.H. COOK: I have not finished with you. Maybe I will sit down and have another go.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: We will pause for a moment. We still have people interjecting.