

GST DISTRIBUTION

**21. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:**

I refer to growing concerns that the federal Labor government will move to change the current GST arrangement with WA.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms L. METTAM:** In a comment yesterday, the Premier stated —  
... earlier this month, the Prime Minister wrote to me —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry. The member for Burns Beach and a couple of ministers, if we could just hear the question, I am sure the Premier would be able to more than adequately respond.

**Ms L. METTAM:** I refer to growing concerns that the federal Labor government will move to change the current GST arrangement with WA. In a comment yesterday, the Premier stated —

... earlier this month, the Prime Minister wrote to me confirming the decision of National Cabinet and reiterating his support for the current arrangement.

Will the Premier table the written guarantee he has received from the Prime Minister; and, if not, why not?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

Once again, the Liberals did not come into this chamber with questions about our government's performance. Clearly they believe that there is nothing to question us about.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** They have railed against the federal government, and, in this particular instance, have invented some sort of apocryphal concern around the Prime Minister's commitment to our fair share of the GST—a deal that we secured. If it were left to the Liberals on that side—they constructed the GST deal—we would be getting less than 10 per cent of our population share; only \$900 million from an estimated \$86 billion estimated GST pool. We have the Liberals to thank for the parlous situation that the state's finances were left in. We have a WA Labor government to thank for resetting the state's finances and getting a deal for WA's fair share of the GST.

Instead of the deal done by the previous Liberal government, we will receive \$6.5 billion this year. This is still only 70¢ for each dollar that we contributed to the national pool, or 70 per cent. No other state gets that little from the GST contributions. The next lowest is the Victorian government, with 92 per cent, so we are doing the heavy lifting on behalf of the nation. We are driving the nation's economy and, thanks to a WA Labor government, we are getting our fair share of the GST.

I go to the substance of the member's question, which was to invent some sort of concern or theory that the Albanese government, which just last year recommitted to the GST arrangements for another three years, might somehow walk away from them. Of course, it is ridiculous. It is another Liberal Party lie, which it is seeking to spread throughout the community.

I draw the member's attention to what the national cabinet agreed. I think it was in about November or December last year—just before the Christmas holidays—that the national cabinet recommitted to the GST agreements. The national cabinet is every state leader and the Prime Minister, in conjunction with the federal Treasurer, sitting around in conference, and it agreed to the current arrangements for that.

As the member is aware, with absolute crystal clarity, he said —

We ... agreed to extend the GST no-worse-off guarantee in its current form for three years, from 2027–28.

Last year, the federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers said —

“What's not under consideration, what's not up for review, is the GST floor here in Western Australia ... We've said that on countless occasions.

...

“I've communicated that privately and publicly to all of my colleagues from right around Australia.”

There is no concern other than the concerns of the member for Vasse. She needs to cook up some sort of story because she and her Liberal Party colleagues are just too damned lazy to bring any issues of substance into this place. There is no concern about the Albanese government's commitment to Western Australia. Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is the only Prime Minister who has got more for Western Australia since John Curtin in the

1940s. He stands by Western Australia. He stands by the deal, and that is why Western Australians are confidently supporting the Albanese government.