

MINING TAX — NATIONAL PARTY PROPOSAL

587. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Deputy Premier:

I refer to the proposal by the Deputy Premier's partner in government, the Leader of the National Party, to impose a \$5-a-tonne tax on iron ore produced by Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: You put the proposal up.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West, I think you are starting to get right up there to the third strike. Do not tempt fate.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I ask —

- (1) What effect would this tax have on employment in the mining industry?
- (2) Would this tax result in more or fewer apprentices being hired by mining companies or on mine construction projects?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

(1)–(2) I am not going to comment on a policy position of the National Party.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Mr Speaker, you heard the question, as everyone else in the chamber did. I did not ask the Deputy Premier to comment on the policy of the National Party. I asked her to talk about the effect of that policy on something in her own portfolio. I would like her to answer it, if she knows.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I heard that as the member requesting me to place an opinion on the record about a National Party policy and I am not required to do it and I am not doing it.