

STATE ECONOMY

480. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Leader of the House:

I refer to the announcement that BHP has posted a \$7.3 billion profit and Rio Tinto has posted a \$4 billion profit driven by iron ore from the Pilbara. Why does this government continue to ask WA householders and public servants to contribute to budget repair yet refuse to start negotiations with the two most profitable companies in the state, who are booking massive profits from selling our resources?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for her question.

I note that if the member wanted a specific answer from the relevant minister, that should be directed either to the Premier or Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade. Nevertheless, I am able to say a couple of things. The first point is that everyone across Western Australia will have to contribute to repairing the mess that the National and Liberal Parties left all Western Australians as a result of their financial mismanagement over the eight and a half years that they were in government. The second point I make is that the National Party took to the election a commitment that would have seen the state tear up state agreements. The National Party tested that and it was rejected. The Labor government is not in the business of tearing up state agreements. The member has been provided with answers to similar questions in this place before, so the member knows that that is the government's position. The Premier has stated on several occasions, including in here, and the member knows that we are putting in place a system of measures in this budget that will see everyone across Western Australia, whatever the size of the company or the state of their profits, contribute to cleaning up the mess that the previous government left.