

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE — MEMBER FOR PILBARA'S COMMENTS

**681. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Leader of the House**

I am glad the Leader of the House is very comfortable with his National Party colleagues.

Is the new Minister for Housing right when he said yesterday that the Prime Minister's offer to consider a floor on the GST is "too little too late" and will benefit only New South Wales?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

What a great question time after a break. This is fantastic! Once again, I think the Leader of the Opposition needs to understand we are an alliance. That means that we do not blindly go along —

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members. You have had a bit of fun but when you ask a question, you have to allow the Leader of the House to provide an answer and the old adage applies: you might not agree with it, you might not like it, but you have to hear it.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Thank you, Mr President.

As I said, in an alliance we are a team, and in a team, sometimes there are disagreements.

**Hon Sue Ellery:** About whether you can win or not.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Each and every time we have risen to the occasion. Do you know what? Fifty per cent plus one always beats 50 per cent minus one. We have more than 50 per cent plus one on this side of the chamber, so we do not mind having a little bit of banter every now and again. With regard to the GST, what a great debate to have, and I think we might have a bit more of it later on. At last we have a Prime Minister with the moral fortitude to say that the system is knackered. The system as it exists is completely and absolutely contrary to the benefit of all states in Australia. For far too long, the other states and territories in this nation of ours have bled Western Australia and we have haemorrhaged as a direct result of a problem with the GST formula. At last we have a Prime Minister with the moral fortitude to acknowledge the fact that the system is broken and he will do something about it. He will provide Western Australia and the rest of the nation with a GST floor to ensure we receive at least a set limit of GST and that Western Australia does not get into the ridiculous situation it has at the moment whereby it receives a return of 30c in the dollar. That is an absolute insult to the founding fathers of this nation, who always worked towards the Federation working cooperatively and collectively.

The Leader of the National Party is entitled to his opinion. In any team there will always be differences of opinion. Quite frankly, when it comes down to it, I have an abundance of confidence in the fact that come 11 March 2017, we will work with our National colleagues, and when the public of Western Australia look at the scoreboard to see what we have achieved and what the Liberal Prime Minister will do to provide certainty of GST in the future, the outcome will take care of itself and that means we will still be sitting on this side of the chamber on 12 March 2017.