

RESOURCES SECTOR

**920. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Ellenbrook and Bullsbrook Youth Services. Thank you very much for coming in today, guys.

I refer to recent claims that apparently Victoria is Australia's hub for mining and resources. Can the minister outline to the house whether this is correct; and, if not, can the minister advise the house how Western Australia is doing the heavy lifting in this sector and creating jobs?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

I was surprised to receive an invitation to attend the International Mining and Resources Conference in Melbourne from my good friend Tim Pallas, the Victorian Minister for Resources. He invited me to come to Melbourne for IMARC, because Melbourne was the mining hub of Australia. I want to make it clear that I was pleased to go to Melbourne to correct the record. I will come back to Mr Pallas's comments in a minute, but I will just make it clear that although Victoria produced \$1.6 billion worth of minerals in 2016–17, in the same year Western Australia produced \$86 billion worth of resources. Victoria did have the largest increase in exploration expenditure, by percentage, to March 2018, when its total expenditure for the year was \$74 million, compared with the \$1.2 billion invested in exploration in Western Australia. Victoria has 11 000 employees in the resources sector as of February of this year, compared with 112 000 here in Western Australia. Historically, Victoria has 13 goldfields that have each produced over one million ounces, which is a considerable production over the history of the state, but Western Australia has produced 255 million ounces of gold. Let us make it clear: Western Australia, with over half the resources output for this nation, is where the heavy lifting is done.

I want to make it clear that the reason we are successful at mining is not just that we are lucky enough to have resources in the ground, it is that we have entrepreneurial business people, the technology and the application of that technology to the mining and resources sector, skilled workers, and the regulatory framework to deliver for the resources sector. We have 350 mining equipment and technology service companies, and 900 petroleum equipment and technology service companies. This is the hub for Australia and Asia for the mining industry.

I will finish by saying that I compliment Tim Pallas, because he understands that we have to be positive about industry to get the most out of it. That is why I am always disappointed looking across at the Liberals, who want to be negative about Western Australia's resources sector. They always want to complain about the sector, and they are always saying how bad things are instead of going on about how well we are doing in this state, because this state is doing the heavy lifting for the resources sector in this country.