

MINERAL RESOURCES LTD — KOOLYANOBING

581. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the state agreement act governing operations by Mineral Resources at Koolyanobbing.

- (1) Does the minister agree that a rise in iron ore prices has delivered additional revenue to the government?
- (2) Does the minister acknowledge that companies engaged in iron ore mining are making a significantly increased profit as a result of increased iron ore prices?
- (3) If yes to (2), does the minister agree that the current agreement between the government and Mineral Resources for large royalty and wharfage discounts is providing a less beneficial deal for the WA taxpayer?
- (4) What will the minister do to address the extremely generous subsidies for mining companies?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Yes.
- (3) The support arrangement provided to Mineral Resources Ltd continues to provide jobs and other benefits to Western Australia by enabling the continuation of a mining operation that was otherwise going to cease ahead of schedule.
- (4) The government will continue to honour the agreement reached with Mineral Resources Ltd.