

MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT — JOB CREATION

1016. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Mount Lawley, I acknowledge the youth of the Australian Jordanian Friendship Association in the public gallery today; and also, on behalf of the member for Belmont, the principal and the amazing year 6 leaders from Kewdale Primary School in your gallery, Mr Speaker.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's job creating agenda, which has already seen more than 47 000 new jobs created and a record number of Western Australians in work. Can the Premier outline to the house how today's announcement by Rio Tinto to invest in its new Koodaideri mine builds on the government's record of giving business the confidence it needs to create jobs?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Thank you to the member for Kingsley. Indeed, we have had another important announcement in Western Australia that reinforces the fact that confidence is back in the business community of this state.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Geraldton!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Under this government, businesses are investing, jobs are being created and Western Australia is getting back on track. Today I announced, in conjunction with Chris Salisbury, the CEO of Rio Tinto, a huge project for Western Australia.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston!

Mr M. McGOWAN: A \$3.5 million investment, the Koodaideri mine is a —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I mean, Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is the last day of the year—please! It is an extraordinary investment—a \$3.5 billion investment, 2 000 jobs during construction, 600 operational jobs for the mine. This is a project that I personally have worked on with Rio Tinto, as have other ministers, over the course of the last year, and given every encouragement and every approval for it to take place. It comes on top of BHP's \$4.7 billion South Flank mine that it announced earlier this year and the \$1.7 billion Eliwana Fortescue Metals Group project. We saw Albemarle Lithium, whose representatives I went to the United States to meet with, announce its project last week.

Mr W.R. Marmion interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Nedlands!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I want to note one commentator who said this recently, and I quote —

“I want to emphasise this: The mining sector growth now is the best I've ever seen in 30 years of watching the economy.”

I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his endorsement. As we saw, it is not there yet, but there was some encouraging news on the front page —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. Nahan: Nothing to do with you.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Thank you for your endorsement.

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Mr M. McGOWAN: No, thank you for your endorsement.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine and Leader of the Opposition, I call you both to order.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is the last sitting day of the year. I am trying to be nice. I am thanking members opposite for their endorsement.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, be happy.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The front page of today's *The West Australian* was certainly encouraging. As has been noted, 47 500 jobs have been created in Western Australia since March last year. Seventy per cent of those are full-time jobs. The government continues to progress its Metronet plans, almost exclusively funded by the federal government, which we are very proud of. We have record funding for roads and regional communities. Fifty per cent of the new railcars will be manufactured in Western Australia. We launched the state's first defence strategy, we launched our first international education strategy, we are supporting the growth of the lithium industry in Western Australia, and for the first time ever the aquaculture industry will be developed on a significant scale. We can all be confident as this year comes to an end that the Western Australian economy is getting back on track under this government.