

STATE ECONOMY — JOB CREATION

307. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Premier:

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how the McGowan Labor government's comprehensive plan for jobs and massive investment in economy-boosting infrastructure is delivering for those in Swan Hills and across Western Australia?
- (2) Can the Premier advise how the business community has responded to this government's job-creating agenda?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question.

- (1)–(2) It is clear this is a budget that will boost business and boost confidence across Western Australia. Members opposite might have difficulty believe me on this, but I just want to quote to them.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Because the member asked me, I will quote what others have had to say.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Rick Newnham—the Young Liberals might know him—had this to say the day after the budget —

... this Budget goes a long way to rebuilding confidence in the business community around stable, ... investment climate —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, it is Rick Newnham.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr D.C. Nalder: Have you had a look at business investment? Fourteen per cent decline.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I am quoting Rick Newnham. Why are you so against Rick Newnham, member for Bateman? What has Rick Newnham ever done to the member for Bateman? That is the thing about the member for Bateman—he hated Colin Barnett, he hates Rick Newnham —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, there is a wall of noise. I want to hear the answer. I am sure you do, too.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He tried to roll Colin Barnett; now he has something against Rick Newnham!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Nedlands!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will quote Rick Newnham —

... this budget goes a long —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He is more talented than you, Young Liberal! He would be better in your seat than you.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: So cutting! So cutting!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is true.

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville, I call you to order for the first and second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will quote Rick Newnham —

... this budget goes a long way to rebuilding —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr W.R. MARMION: The Premier did not call the member for Dawesville by his name; he called him a “Young Liberal”.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am sure the Premier will correct that and call him by his electorate name.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, the member for Dawesville. I will quote Rick Newnham —

... this Budget goes a long way to rebuilding confidence in the business community around stable, you know, investment climate, creating new jobs ... So this is a really important Budget for stimulating the economy and ... creating jobs.

That was Rick Newnham. Do I have to say it again? That was Rick Newnham. The Civil Contractors Federation—do the opposition know it—said —

The Government's big infrastructure program should help ensure a better year for our industry, civil construction, and contribute to a greater sense of optimism and stronger economic and employment outcomes.

But my favourite is from the Regional Chambers of Commerce WA. Kitty Prodonovich said this —

What we do like ... is one of the things the WA state government has done—and it is pleasing—is that their budget is focused on their election commitments.

And the big one was creating WA jobs and everything they do is around that.

There is work being done in the regions, we are seeing it.

Government members. Hear, hear!

Mr D.C. Nalder: That is a shocking quote. That was ordinary.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Now he is getting at Kitty Prodonovich! We cannot keep this guy happy.

Under this government business confidence is back, 30 000 jobs have been created, we have the highest participation rate in the country, we are building at least 50 per cent of railcars here in Western Australia and we secured federal money—we actually go and ask! I sit down with the Prime Minister and federal ministers and my ministers and say, "Let's work together to achieve outcomes." Slightly different from what occurred before. What do we have? Byford, Morley–Ellenbrook, Yanchep, Thornlie–Cockburn. Byford was the one the former government opposed. There will be unprecedented investment in new roads, an affordable housing package, tourism and destination marketing, a \$24 million investment in grains research and development, the new regional economic development scheme, and billions of dollars on regional roads. It is all happening out there in regional Western Australia—good economic management combined with good financial management.