

EDUCATION — 2018–19 STATE BUDGET

308. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I refer to additional cuts —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I will hear the question in silence. Start again, member for Scarborough.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I refer to the additional cuts of \$235 million to the education budget across the forward estimates compared with the last budget. Will the government fully disclose all its education cuts or is the intention to just impose the cuts with no consultation or notice, like its cuts to the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, camp schools, Landsdale Farm School and Moora Residential College?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I have learnt a lot of things in here, but one thing I have learnt is not to trust the analysis of the member for Scarborough on anything. We are increasing spending in education across Western Australia. We have the courage as a government to put in place the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund levy on the mining industry to support training in Western Australia. We have made huge investments in new and improved schools across Western Australia. We are putting in place 300 additional education assistants and additional Aboriginal and Islander education officers, particularly in the regions. We are putting in place a properly funded science, technology, engineering and mathematics strategy across Western Australia by investing \$17 million in science classrooms and laboratories in schools—primary schools in particular—across Western Australia. All those things are happening and, at the same time, we are putting in place proper, decent financial management to drive down the \$40 billion worth of debt the Liberal and National Parties put in place. Their only solution to anything and the only thing they stand for is selling Western Power, is it not?

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is that the opposition's position? All it stands for is selling Western Power!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: What is your answer? You are dumb!

The SPEAKER: Premier! Through the Chair.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The word “dumb” means quiet. You are sitting there quiet, my friends. Why do they not answer the question? It is a simple question.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: We're waiting for you to answer the question.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I have answered the question. We are spending more on education. That is what our government is doing. We support education and I just outlined a whole range of things that we are doing. I would never, ever trust the analysis of the member for Scarborough. We saw her performance as a minister. We saw it when the opposition leader's position was handed to her after the election and she ran a mile.