

PILBARA INSTITUTE — NEWMAN AND TOM PRICE CAMPUSES

**361. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:**

I have a supplementary question. Considering that the minister is keeping such a close eye —

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, I hope we are not disturbing you! Leader of the Opposition, start again.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Considering that the minister is keeping such a close eye on this issue in relation to Newman and Tom Price, and that 65 students in Newman are now losing the staff who run their TAFE, which mining companies have pulled out of joint arrangements in Newman and Tom Price; and did the minister authorise the removal of all staff from both those TAFE colleges?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

As the Leader of the Opposition is no doubt aware, the state training providers are independent institutions, and through their governing councils, the managing directors work with the chairs and with the governing councils to make decisions to ensure that the state training providers can continue to be sustainable. If the mining companies withdraw from their contracts and there is no-one there to replace those contracts, we have to look at a more flexible arrangement. We are clustering Newman, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and the Port Hedland campuses to ensure that we can deliver a sustainable training program —

*Point of Order*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** My question was very specific: considering the minister is keeping such a close eye on this issue, which mining companies have pulled out; and did the minister authorise the removal of those staff?

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I do not think the Leader of the Opposition was listening to the first part of my answer. I said that Rio had withdrawn from its work readiness program at the Roebourne campus without notice early in term 1. At the Newman campus —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** No, if members had been listening, they would have heard me say that at the Newman campus there were 65 students enrolled during the year in a safety program that was on a commercial basis. Seven of those students were being managed from the Hedland campus and will continue to be so. That front office is closing on 21 May because it is no longer sustainable to deliver those courses at the Newman campus. Those students will continue to be serviced via the Pilbara Institute through the Port Hedland campus. It is an unfortunate set of circumstances; it is not a perfect world out there in the Pilbara, and mining companies are pulling back.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Again, the supplementary question was simple. No part of the Leader of the Opposition's question was about Roebourne. He asked: which mining companies pulled out at Newman and Tom Price? We are waiting to hear an answer to the supplementary question.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** As I have said previously, the Pilbara Institute operates as a cluster. It includes Roebourne, Newman, Tom Price, South Hedland Pundulmurra campus, Karratha campus and Onslow. They work as a cluster; we work to ensure that we can deliver a sustainable training product. Obviously, we want that institute to be viable into the future. We cannot control what the mining companies will do, but I am very pleased to say that FMG is continuing with its work readiness program and its Vocational Training and Employment Centre program. We will monitor that closely. If those companies do pull back from the training contracts they have and the training programs being delivered in the Pilbara, we will work with those students to transition them into other arrangements that will ensure that they will be able to be employed into the future.