

TAX CUTS — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

**469. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

As a supplementary question, why is the Labor Party hell-bent on taking money out of the pockets of Western Australians by withholding tax cuts in the federal sphere and jacking up household fees and prices by \$850 in Western Australia?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I am aware of some tax increases, and they are the three increases in land tax that were made when the Liberals and Nationals were in office. Do members know whom that hit?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, you asked a question; listen to the answer.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Do members know who that hit? That hit small business people across Western Australia.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They are the tax increases that I am aware of. They hurt small businesses across Western Australia. Why was the Liberal Party so difficult towards small businesses in our state?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Why is the member for Riverton not sitting in his seat?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am aware of some commentary about the Liberal Party's increase in land tax. The member for Bateman had this to say —

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** When?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It was on 17 May 2016.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** What year are we in now—2019? Have you got anything current?

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** These are the tax increases we are dealing with. The member for Bateman said —

There has been quite an adverse impact on various constituents at various levels and, yes, I do have concerns about it ...

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** On 14 March 2017, Joe Francis said —

We let down our base. We walked away from them. We increased taxes ... That hurt our core base—small to medium-sized businesses, people who have mortgaged their homes ... We let them down.

Joe Francis was very reliable after he left office!

One of the Liberal Party's favourite sons Phil Edman said on 18 May 2017 —

I also tried incredibly hard to stop the increase in land tax and to ensure —

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** Oh, yeah!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** This is what Phil said; he is a member of the Liberal Party.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis:** He went to Rockingham, didn't he?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Apparently, that is true; he lives in Rockingham. That is right. So what is the member's point?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, please!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Phil Edman said —

I also tried incredibly hard to stop the increase in land tax and to ensure the long-term viability of the property market ... It has had negative impacts on people's ability to purchase and keep property ...

When the Liberal Party was in office, it put up land tax three times on small businesses in Western Australia. That is its record. When it put up water and power prices, it put them up by 90 per cent. In some years, it put up prices by more than 20 per cent in one year. At the same time, it gave us the worst debt on record. One group we will not be lectured by is the Liberal and National Parties in WA.