

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE — MEMBER FOR PILBARA'S COMMENTS

680. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Leader of the House:

Was the new Minister for Housing right when he said publicly on Monday, 8 August, that the Premier cannot win the election; the budget is a dud; and this government has no economic plan?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I love it! That was one of the very, very rare occasions I disagreed with my National Party colleagues. This government has an extremely proud record that it can sell to the public. We have completely transformed this state from length to breadth—from the metropolitan area, to the Pilbara, the Kimberley, the midwest, the eastern goldfields, the great southern and the south west. It is a completely different state from what it was when we took over in 2008. If people walk to the foreshore to look at Elizabeth Quay, they can also see the new stadium. They can go into Northbridge and see the Perth City Link. Wherever they go, they will see that this city has been transformed. Exactly the same has happened in rural areas. We have a very, very proud record that we will put to the public of Western Australia in 2017.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER COLLIER: We have been able to do that because the Liberal Party and the National Party are a united team. We have been able to govern —

Several members interjected.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Deary, deary me! They hate hearing the truth.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon PETER COLLIER: We were able to win the 2008 election on the back of a stroke of genius—an advertising campaign that asked the public of Western Australia to name three things the Labor government had done for the people of Western Australia.

Hon Sue Ellery interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER COLLIER: Did the Labor Party respond? No, it left that position in a vacuum, so the Western Australian public thought: what has it done in seven years? It had done absolutely nothing. In contrast, let us not forget that in 2008, in our first term of government, we had a minority government. We got an extra eight months of government due to the previous Premier's flawed decision and we were able to show the public of Western Australia what a real government can do. Then the Western Australian public made up their minds and emphatically voted for the Liberal–National government. That was due to good governance. In addition, in transforming the landscape —

Hon Sue Ellery interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The question was fairly general. I am sure there was a point to it and I am sure there is a point to the minister's answer and I would like you to get around to it.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am, Mr President. I think it is such a good question because, quite frankly, we are saying —

Hon Stephen Dawson: Give us a good answer then.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I am giving a great answer; members opposite just do not like it. They do not like the truth. As a result of that, we have transformed not only the landscape of Western Australia from the Kimberley down to the great southern —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon PETER COLLIER: We have completely transformed the landscape from a social perspective. There has never been more social reform in terms of some of the most marginalised people in the community and the largest native title settlements in the nation. We have completely reformed, in a positive sense, the education sector throughout Western Australia and therefore have shown the greatest improvement in the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy of any state in the nation. More parents than ever before are choosing public education. We have completely transformed the health system. That is due to the Liberal–National government's actions. We are a team. Every now and again we have a little niggle at each

other. That is very much a part of being in government, just as you guys have a niggle at each other. I remember not so long ago someone wanted to overthrow the Leader of the Opposition.

From my perspective, I feel very comfortable with my National colleagues, and all my colleagues feel comfortable with our National colleagues. We will sell the message over the next six months. We will work on the process so that come 11 March 2017, the outcome will take care of itself; that is, I am very confident the public of Western Australia will once again return the Liberal–National government.