

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT — JOBS — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**

*Matter of Public Interest*

**THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland)** informed the Assembly that he was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [3.02 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Liberal–National government for failing in its eight years of government in the vital areas of economic and financial management, including failing to have a jobs plan for the future, and as such does not deserve re-election.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the history of the last eight years is written, it will record that it was an era of lost jobs, lost opportunities, economic mismanagement and gross financial irresponsibility. It will be recorded as a time in which the future was mortgaged, and future generations will have to pay off the mistakes of the current government. It is a time when unemployment has bitten the Western Australian economy and ordinary people across this state, and the government has no plan to deal with it. People across our state are now frightened and scared for their futures because they do not know where their jobs and opportunities will come from, and the government has no idea about that either. Ordinary working families across our state—ordinary families like the ones in my electorate of Rockingham—are worried about their job security and the job security of their children and grandchildren. That situation is replicated across Western Australia today.

The record will show that full-time and part-time employment has been dramatically reduced. Casual employment rates have dramatically increased. We have had the worst debt and worst deficit on record in Western Australia, and we have had a shocking decline in training opportunities for Western Australians as a consequence. The public needs to understand—I think this is very important—that the government was not an innocent bystander in this. Members opposite were not sitting there without any control over what was occurring. They were not corks in the ocean. Members opposite had their hands on the lever of power. They made the situation worse. They ignored all the warnings. They ignored every report after every report—every Treasury report after every Treasury report—and every financial commentator who indicated that the government’s financial management was a problem. Members opposite sat there for eight years and allowed it to happen. They allowed the situation in Western Australia to happen. They are culpable for what has occurred in Western Australia over the last eight years; they are the guilty party.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Members opposite oversaw it.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Mr Speaker, I know the narrative that members opposite are now trying to create by sending —

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I see the narrative that members opposite are now out there with—an embarrassing billboard they have created. The member for Jandakot was rolled out to try to prosecute the argument that somehow I am responsible for what has happened in Western Australia and that I am a threat.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Members opposite are the ones who presided over the worst finances and the worst set of employment figures in the history of the state! They are the ones who oversaw it.

Just so members opposite understand the situation that confronts the state today, 87 000 Western Australians are out of work. When members opposite came to power, the figure was 28 000 people out of work. Over the last eight years, the figure has climbed enormously. One hundred and fifty thousand Western Australians are underemployed; that is, they are seeking more employment. Therefore, on top of the 87 000 people out of work, 150 000 are seeking extra work. Full-time employment has fallen for 21 consecutive months in Western Australia. We have seen 50 000 jobs lost in Western Australia in the last 12 months. We see people leaving the state to look for opportunities in New Zealand, Victoria, New South Wales or even Tasmania. The

Western Australian unemployment rate is now comparable to those of South Australia and Tasmania. But for all those people leaving the state, the employment figure would be much, much worse in Western Australia. In some suburban areas such as Mandurah, the unemployment rate is 11.5 per cent, but in Girrawheen, Balga and Mirrabooka, there are Depression-era levels of unemployment.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I will tell the Premier why they are Depression-era levels—the unemployment rate is 25 per cent in Girrawheen, Mirrabooka and Balga. They are Depression-era rates of unemployment.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** You can't see that from Cottesloe!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is correct; you cannot see that from Cottesloe. Maybe it is too far away; maybe the Premier's time is up. If members opposite do not care about the unemployed people of Mandurah, Girrawheen, Balga or Mirrabooka, maybe we should have a government that does care.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The unemployment rate is 25 per cent in those suburbs. The unemployment rate in Halls Creek is 36.1 per cent. Currently, for every job vacancy in Western Australia, five people are seeking work.

I heard talk in question time about small business. Business bankruptcies in Western Australia increased last year by 17.4 per cent. In the same period, business bankruptcies in Victoria declined by 11.9 per cent, in New South Wales they declined by 8.4 per cent, and in Queensland they declined by 1.8 per cent. In Western Australia, business bankruptcies in the last year went up 17.4 per cent. Personal insolvencies went up in the last year by 29.3 per cent. In Tasmania, they have gone up by only five per cent, but we have a 29 per cent increase in personal insolvencies in Western Australia.

What has happened? We have come out of the greatest boom in the history of the world economy, in a mining state, in the heart of the fastest growing region in the world, yet this government has left us with an almighty unemployment and financial hangover. What is the consequence of that? The consequence is huge cuts to training, apprenticeship numbers and traineeships across Western Australia. We have seen cuts to the number of teachers and education assistants and cuts to hospital staff across Western Australia. We have seen cuts to schools across Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Coming from you—I mean, seriously.

We have seen job losses in the Water Corporation; we have seen job losses and apprenticeship cuts in Western Power. Across the state, in the broader economy, virtually on a daily basis we see job cuts in organisations like Telstra, Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Wesfarmers, BP, Austal and Woodside. The government laughed about the loss of the Smith's Snackfood Company factory; it thought it was some sort of joke that the opposition was worried about the loss of those 400 jobs. We saw the loss of the Solahart manufacturing business here in Western Australia. What is more, the Premier's early narrative, going back all those years—eight years ago—was that it was all going to be okay because he was going to bring home Browse and Oakajee. What happened? He lost Browse and he lost Oakajee. That was what happened. He inherited Gorgon and he inherited Wheatstone, but the ones he was directly responsible for—Browse and Oakajee—he lost; the government lost them. I can produce quote after quote in which the Premier said he would bring home Browse; that is a fact. It did not matter what the company said—he said it was going to happen onshore here in Western Australia, and guess what? He failed.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough! Treasurer!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** On top of that, most recently we have had the CommSec report that says that under the Barnett government Western Australia has slipped to eighth out of the eight Australian states and territories in respect of economic management. The Premier has a hide, going out there with a billboard, when we look at his record. His solution now is a job-killing mining tax and the sale of Western Power—an asset that is owned by all Western Australians and one that produces revenue for the state. I will give the Premier a tip: we do not support either of those initiatives. If the Premier wants to say that I am negative because I do not support a job-killing

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

mining tax and I do not support the sale of Western Power, he can go ahead and say it, because I do not and Labor does not.

Several members interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** As I said, I do not support the government's sale of Western Power or its job-killing mining tax. I support our plan for jobs; we have a plan for jobs, and the government does not.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The wall of noise!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Our plan for jobs will keep mining strong and broaden —

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Our plan for jobs will keep mining strong and also broaden and diversify our state's economy. That is our plan for the future.

The other tragedy of the last few years is this: the government has spent all the capacity. Now there are limited opportunities for additional spending because the government blew out debt and deficits to record levels, despite all the warnings. Despite all the warnings over the last eight years, the government blew the books, blew the budget, blew out debt and blew out the deficit to record levels. For that, Liberal Party members—particularly those who are retiring—might want to reflect on the fact that they should be condemned. We are now in economic headwinds and the government has blown the budget and limited the state's opportunity to be able to spend its way out of the problem. That is the reality of what it has done.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You have lost the AAA credit rating, my friend!

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

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer! Treasurer, I am going to call you to order for the second time, I think.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That —

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

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer! You seem to be in a different world over here. We are actually trying to conduct business.

**Mr P.C. Tinley** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I might be calling you!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I will close on this: we have a plan for the future. We are not afraid to promote our plan. We are not going to sell off Western Power. We are going to engage in the solid, responsible financial and economic management of this state, if we are elected in March next year. We are not arrogant like the Treasurer, who says that the government is going to win in a landslide. We know the fight is tough, but we also know that Western Australians want a plan and they want change. They want a fresh start in this state. History will record this government as having presided over the state's worst unemployment levels, the worst debt in history, the worst deficit in history and the worst credit rating in history. It will record this as being a disastrous period of government, with no plan for the future.

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn)** [3.16 pm]: The Leader of the Opposition has been talking about the historical record of this government. That historical record is being written now by commentators who look at the performance of this government and see that we have a situation in which, after the biggest boom we have ever seen, the state is being left with an economy that is eighth out of the eight Australian jurisdictions. Our unemployment rate is worse than Tasmania's and, as I said last week and say again now, we have a situation in which our apprentice numbers have gone backwards. How does the government do that? How does it go through the biggest boom the state has ever seen and actually lose apprentice numbers? No wonder we are in a terrible situation.

We have had eight long years of wasted opportunities to build and diversify the economy, and the government is only just now talking about it. That is what the plan for jobs is about—it is about diversifying the economy. The government had the opportunity to do that. The Premier told the fabricators down in the Kwinana strip that the workshops would be full. Does he remember that? He told them that, and they went out and invested in

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

automation and robotics and put huge amounts of their own capital into a future diversified economy on the basis of what the Premier told them. What were they left with? Nothing. Those workshops are now closed; 400 000 tonnes of fabricated steel for Gorgon went overseas. The vessels, the piping and the manufactured components all went overseas. It was exactly the same with Pluto and CITIC Pacific Mining's Sino Iron project. Thousands of workers marched up the Terrace to a demonstration outside Parliament House, and for the first time in living memory, their employers were with them, demanding that the government do something. Does the Premier remember what he did? He made a few phone calls, he got 10 000 tonnes of steel out of the Gorgon project, and he thought, "My job's done."

Those companies are now closed, those jobs are now lost, and the Premier has no idea how to fix it—no idea at all. That is why the Labor Party has its plan for jobs and why it is talking about a diversified economy. The Premier should look at the government's own investments and infrastructure spend and the bizarre campaign headed by the government's savage attack poodle, the member for Jandakot—the only member of Parliament in Australia who is part man, part dog. It has the bizarre slogan that under Labor 30 000 jobs would not exist, as though somehow the general public can re-imagine the last eight years without the Barnett government. I do not know who came up with that idea, but they need to go back to the drawing board.

Let us look at what happened in infrastructure investment. Where is the bridge to the stadium being fabricated? It is in Malaysia! The government did a good job there; it has created jobs in Malaysia—well done! The government has created jobs in Malaysia.

**Mr P.T. Miles** interjected.

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

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** What a success Elizabeth Quay's sewerage and plumbing is! Where did the government get those companies from? They came from the eastern states—from Queensland. There have been jobs created out of railcars, but they are in Queensland.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** When it comes to the normal operational spend on things such as housing maintenance, members should look at Lake Maintenance. Lake Maintenance does maintenance and upgrades on Housing Authority houses in the Kimberley and the goldfields. Which company got the job? It was a New South Wales company. What did that company do? It terminated the contracts of a local subcontractor that employs Indigenous people. That is the government's record. It gives work away to either overseas or interstate companies that get rid of Western Australian jobs. That is the government's record, and it is outrageous.

Only yesterday, I was contacted by a company in Broome that was bidding for the \$20 million Broome Aboriginal short-stay accommodation facility project. That project would have put a lot of jobs and a lot of effort into local companies in Broome. Premier, the two local companies that bid on that project missed out to Ri-Con Contractors Pty Ltd, which is a Queensland company. Once again, those local companies employ Indigenous people. Had the government applied the Buy Local policy—which the government promotes, along with the missing group of National Party members who are supposed to be in the chamber and who also go around promoting the Buy Local policy—one of those local companies would have won that job and people in Broome would have retained their jobs and new jobs would have been created. That is the Premier's record. It is not about creating jobs or whether WA Labor would have created those jobs. The Premier's record is that he never took the opportunity to diversify the economy and never stood up for local business in Western Australia when he should have. The Premier missed out on major opportunities and, as a result, we have an economy that is the worst in the country.

**MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier)** [3.24 pm]: I will make a couple of brief comments.

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** Don't hold back!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** No, I will not.

This government has a broad policy agenda across every portfolio. Although this motion relates to the economy, which is what I will talk about, I remind members that Labor's environmental legacy was lead pollution in Esperance. The Labor Party walked away from that, but we spent \$30 million to correct it. That is where the Liberal-National government started in 2008. The biggest environmental achievement in this century has been the conservation protection of the Kimberley, which was done in a remarkably short time. No other environmental measure anywhere since European settlement can match that.

Several members interjected.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It cannot be matched, and nothing comes close. It is one of the world's great wilderness areas.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire** interjected.

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** On social policy, many commentators—they have all left because of the silly motion—attribute social conscience and social policy to the Labor Party. Let us look at this government's record. It has put an additional \$600 million into disability services. The Labor Party did nothing in that area. Indeed, the Labor government passed up the opportunity when it had it. This government established a Minister for Mental Health, a Mental Health Commission and a separate budget for mental health. Yes, there is a lot more to be done. What was the Labor Party's policy? It was about social drugs and party drugs. That is how the Labor Party dealt with the issues that have led to the methamphetamine problem that we have now. That was the Labor Party's approach. It is on the public record, including statements made in this chamber and reported in *Hansard*, and members opposite cannot deny it.

Child protection is a massive problem for the state. The number of children in the care of the state has doubled in the last decade, and the number of Aboriginal children now exceeds the number of other children in the care of the state. It is a huge social responsibility and it is a struggle, but the government is putting enormous resources and effort into the problem. What did the Labor Party do in child protection? It did nothing! In the Labor Party's so-called conscience areas of social policy and environment, it was a poor performer—an appalling performer. It has been Liberal governments that have taken up those issues.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, Member for Girrawheen.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I come to the economy. In my view, Western Australia's economy is strong on a number of measures. As members know, Western Australia has about 11 per cent of Australia's population and it produces about 43 per cent of national exports. At one stage, it was above 50 per cent of national exports, and I expect that by 2020 it will be up around 50 per cent again. That is an extraordinary performance. Comparisons are made over time. I will come back to unemployment. If we compared some of the current economic statistics in CommSec with those at the peak of commodity prices, of course we would get negative figures. But if we take an absolute measure, which is more correct, for example, productivity—output per head—do members know what that is in Western Australia? Do members know what productivity, the measure of economic performance, is in Western Australia? It is about \$100 000 a head. Do members know what that measure is in Australia?

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I have been more than fair with you. I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Production per head in Australia is around \$65 000 to \$70 000. That is a huge gap. Do members know what our population increase has been in the last eight years? It has been nearly 500 000 people. Western Australia has had a massive inflow of people from elsewhere in Australia in search of highly paid jobs, particularly around the mining industry. We are seeing some correction now and unemployment is higher than anyone would want, and some of those people are drifting back to the east coast, which is to be expected. Do members remember the mining boom, when prices were at their peak in the mining industry and it talked about being 200 000 jobs short? I never used those figures, because I have been an observer and participant in this economy for 30 years and it is highly cyclical. Western Australia has long-term trends and strong growth and, yes, we get problems, such as those we have in the jobs market. No-one would deny that. People are concerned about job security and their own financial interest.

I am going to make only a few more comments on the economy. The Labor Party carries on about its record, but hang on! I remember well the Inpex project and the 2008 state election. I remember the head of Inpex ringing me during the campaign to tell me that Inpex would probably pull out of its project because it could not even get the former Labor government to answer phone calls. The Labor government would not even pick up the phone! I had repeated phone calls and I met Inpex employees during the campaign and they were absolutely frustrated. What did the Labor government and the then Minister for Environment need to do? They needed to find a site somewhere on the Western Australian coastline where Inpex could build its plant. The Labor government could not do that. It left a part government-owned Japanese company—it still is, I think—to negotiate with Aboriginal people on its own. The Labor Party completely abrogated its responsibility for development and it abrogated its

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

responsibility to act in concert with Aboriginal communities. It just ignored that. It lost Inpex to Darwin. It built a 900-kilometre pipeline.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. I have been more than lenient with you. If you want to speak, put your name down.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Inpex built a 900-kilometre pipeline to get away from the Labor government. That is what it did. It took the gas out of Western Australia.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** That's just not true.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It happened. It is out there under the ocean right now, piping gas. That is what happened.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

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

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** When I became Premier, Chevron came to me and said that it had the Gorgon gas project. The project stalled.

**Mr M. McGowan:** That's rubbish.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It did. Chevron came to see me. It asked me who would have responsibility for the project. I said that I would be the Minister for State Development. We had a discussion and it said that it would reactivate Gorgon, and it went into construction very quickly. That is the truth. We could talk about Wheatstone or the Karara iron ore project. The Labor Party could not make a decision about the Karara project in the midwest. It never happened. Roy Hill was struggling under Labor. It got underway under this government.

The phenomenon of this decade has been the emergence of modern China. Yes, there are problems. There was an element of headache after the event. I concede that. This state has increased LNG production threefold during a short period. Iron ore production has doubled. We are now world leaders in both areas. How many of those projects would have happened under Labor? None, because it could not do it. It could not get up to the mark and sort out a big project. To this day, it has never been able to do it.

The Labor Party talks about diversification. In the mining industry—our biggest industry, the one that gives us world significance—diversification is happening. Magnetite iron ore is the processing of low grade iron ore deposits. It is happening under this government. China needs 50 million tonnes a year, half of which is going to come from Western Australia. I opened a Yara chemicals plant in the Pilbara. It does not produce gas. It buys gas and produces chemicals. It is a billion-dollar plant. Construction started on a lithium carbonate plant at Kwinana. It does not mine lithium; it buys lithium and processes it into a value added product. The Labor Party opposes uranium mining. The world is going to need nuclear power if it is going to protect the environment. I could go on and on. The Labor Party is no friend of the mining industry at all.

We have seen the advancement of agriculture. We have relatively unproductive soils here. We are not a high intensity producer of agricultural products. We need GM technology. The Labor Party opposes it; it opposes GM. That is the secret to higher yields, drought resistant, frost resistant —

**Mr C.J. Tallentire** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Gosnells.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire** interjected.

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The member for Gosnells is the shadow Minister for Environment and he is confirming that the Labor Party opposes GM. It opposes science, technology and production. It opposes live animal exports. Does the Labor Party oppose live animal exports?

**Mr C.J. Tallentire** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Gosnells, if you want to talk, you have plenty of time.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** He's attacking me.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Gosnells—stop.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Here is a test for the member for Gosnells. Does he support live animal exports?

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** I'm talking about GM.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** QED! We know where he stands. The would-be environment minister opposes science and GM. He opposes live animal exports. The Labor Party should go out and declare that as part of its jobs for Western Australia. Where are the jobs in that policy?

Now the Labor Party is discovering diversification of the economy. Obviously, tourism, with high incomes, urbanisation and changing lifestyle patterns in Asia, is a standout obvious for advancement. Tourism is advancing. During the peak of commodity prices, tourism was crowded out by the mining industry. No hotel rooms were available. Little investment was going into it. Wage costs were too high. It has transformed. Close to 3 000 hotel rooms are completed, under construction or going into construction.

The Labor Party opposed and it continues to oppose Elizabeth Quay. Four million people have been to Elizabeth Quay since it opened in January, and it opposes it. The Labor Party opposes the stadium at Burswood. Four million people have visited Elizabeth Quay. That is the figure. Members of the Labor Party can go down there any day of the week and have a look.

Employment is up 97 000 and growing stronger as a result of tourism. If the Labor Party is genuine about diversifying the economy, it has to make some brave decisions. What is the Labor Party's approach on penalty rates? If it wants to employ people, it has to be able to do something about it. Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand on penalty rates? What are his union leaders telling him to do? Does he want to support the tourism industry?

**Mr R.H. Cook:** What is your position on penalty rates? Do you want to abolish them?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Saturday rates on Sunday.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, Premier; that is enough.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The Labor Party dares to talk about health. We should look at the number of hospitals and improved health services across the state. What an enormous achievement by this government—the greatest health achievement in over 100 years. What does the Labor Party do? It criticises Fiona Stanley Hospital and it criticises Perth Children's Hospital. I cannot understand any member of Parliament criticising a children's hospital like that. All those opposite do is knock it, knock it, knock it. All they do is criticise it.

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I have been more than lenient with you. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The decisions that this government has made on health, education, social services, environment, resource development, agriculture and tourism are not decisions of the last 24 hours. They were decisions we made right on the money when we came into power in 2008. If members look at absolute levels of production, absolute growth of the economy, market shares in export and market shares in investment, this state is in a strong position.

**Mr R.F. Johnson:** Rubbish!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The member for Hillarys says that is rubbish. He sat around the cabinet table and never opened his mouth. He took every dollar he could get out of the taxpayer and never performed. If anyone milked the system, it was him. He milked the system like it had never been milked before.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** We are ready for the election. The Labor Party can bring it on with its little red book and jobs plan. Bring it on, because we are ready for it. Its record is appalling. No-one will forget the personal conduct of the Leader of the Opposition. No-one will forget the personal conduct of the member for Butler. No-one will forget the negligence of the member for Girrawheen or the member for Midland in their portfolios. We will take a little bit of pleasure in reminding the public about this union-dominated mob.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys)** [3.38 pm]: I cannot let the moment go without responding to the outrageous comments from the Premier of this state.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not want to hear anybody. I want to hear the member for Hillarys.

---

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The one thing that really upsets me is dishonesty by government. The member just walking out is very dishonest in the way she was speaking now.

**Mr P.T. Miles** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo. I call you to order now for the third time.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We saw dishonesty at the weekend when the government trotted out the fisheries minister to be the fall guy for the Liberal Party. What he was saying was dishonest. He was blaming the Labor Party and saying that 30 000 jobs would not have been created if it had been in power. That is absolutely dishonest. The Premier referred to the stadium. The stadium will be a drain on the Western Australian public for decades to come. It will be the most heavily subsidised stadium in Australia. The Premier will not be honest and tell us how much the subsidy is going to be. He will not do it because the public wants to know. He is full of cover-ups and secrecy. He is the most untransparent Premier that I have ever come across. He can criticise me in government; sure he can.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

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

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order now for the second time, Premier for the first time.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I say to the Premier, wait for election night, sunshine. When they cross live to my campaign, I will have a few more words to say then, when they show the disgraced Premier who lost an election that he should never have lost. He will not win the next election—not in a fit. I do not think he will even be there. I think the Minister for Police will be there, actually, in the meantime. They are having a special party meeting soon.

Let us talk about the economy. This is the Premier who saw this state lose its AAA credit rating. When I left cabinet, state debt was less than \$20 billion—a lot less; it was about \$17 billion. That was bad enough. I used to have talks with the then Treasurer, Christian Porter.

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

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why don't you just be quiet you silly little man! Mr Speaker, I ask you for protection.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The Treasurer called the member for Hillarys a fraud. I ask that he withdraw.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, this is not an opportunity to make a speech. Withdraw that statement please.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I withdraw.

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

*Debate Resumed*

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, I call you to order for the third time. Leader of the Opposition, that is enough. I do not want to hear from you, member for Albany.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Mr Speaker, about a minute ago you called the Treasurer to order for the third time.

**The SPEAKER:** No, I did not. I called him to order for the second time, and I have now called him to order for the third time.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** You called him to order for the third time as the Leader of the Opposition was getting to his feet, and you have now called him a fourth time.

**The SPEAKER:** Third time, and I do not need to be reminded by you about how many times I have called people. If I had to throw everybody out on the third call, there would be a very empty chamber.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** As I said, I hate dishonesty in government. That is what we saw before the last election, with this Premier making dishonest statements. He said that these things were fully funded and fully costed, and all the rest of it. It was all going to happen. He was not being truthful, and he knows that. He claims the glory for

Fiona Stanley Hospital. Fiona Stanley Hospital was funded by the previous Labor government, originally by Eric Ripper, who was the Treasurer. He funded that hospital. It is a great hospital, although it is a bit short of doctors and nurses. People are complaining to me about going down there; they do not want to go to Fiona Stanley because there are not enough doctors and nurses. I would be the first to admit that we have a wonderful children's hospital, but it is not thanks to this Premier. The mining companies paid a huge amount of money towards that, and good on them. We need that. From what I understand, more primary schools were built under the previous Labor government than under this government. It is a question of honesty. The Premier and the truth are distant cousins. Nobody believes him anymore. They do not like him. I do not like him, but the people do not like him and that is the most important thing. The people in my electorate will make their decision. They do not like dirty tricks, and they do not like dishonesty, which we saw at the weekend.

Of course, jobs were created by the stadium project, but if we had not built the stadium, jobs would have been created on refurbishing the existing stadium. I do not necessarily agree with it, but the Labor Party was going to do a refurbishment on Elizabeth Quay—a scaled down version. Let us just get some honesty out of the Premier. Let him stand up and try to be honest for once in his life and say that if the National Party holds the balance of power on election night, he will rule out the \$5 a tonne tax increase on iron ore as a precondition. The Nationals will not govern without it. Let the Premier stand up and be honest with the people. I am totally opposed to the \$5 a tonne tax that the National Party wants to put on iron ore, and I am totally opposed to the way that this Premier has ruined our state economy. There are almost 90 000 people out of jobs. As I have said before, the biggest industry in Western Australia is liquidators coming from the eastern states, because so many small businesses are going out of business. Try to be honest for a change. We have not seen that for a long time. We certainly will not see it under this Premier. He is a disgrace, and I think he has ruined this state. Our children's grandchildren will be paying off the debt that he has incurred. That is the legacy that that man is leaving to this state—massive debt. We are not going to get our AAA credit rating back for years—probably a decade at the earliest. We certainly will not get it under the present government—not in a fit.

**MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park)** [3.45 pm]: Nobody doubts that the government has spent a lot of money. I do not doubt for a minute that the government has spent a huge amount of money. I found it interesting that the Treasurer was blaming the Independent Liberal member for Hillarys for spending so much. He is the Treasurer; he has a role in this, when ministers spend money. I get that the Treasurer is surprised to find himself in the financial situation he is in. I get that, but I enjoyed the retrofitting of an argument that it has all been about jobs. I note the references to small business during question time, because when I meet small business people they talk a lot about the land tax increases—one, two, three increases of 12, 10 and 20 per cent. I hear a lot about that and that is probably why we are starting to see business-related insolvencies go through the roof. Wanneroo and Joondalup are the areas with the highest incidence of business-related insolvencies in the last quarter—up 17 per cent in one quarter alone.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** So you'll fix that?

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** Honestly, minister, I get that the government has spent a lot of money, and I get the fact that the minister does not like the financial outcome that the government has delivered to the people of Western Australia. But the Premier made the point that it is all cyclical. We live in a highly cyclical economy, except that every decision he made up until it became cyclical was to lock in assumptions of iron ore prices as though they were here to stay. In the midyear review of 2012, he changed the assumption basis—this was the midyear review, not the budget—to assume that the iron ore price was going to stay at a record high across 10 years. That is what he did. He assumed that it was no longer cyclical; he assumed that it was here to stay, and he spent the money accordingly. That is what he did, and now he has an unclear view of what it is all about.

When I first listened to the Treasurer talking about last year's budget, it was all about selling assets to pay down debt. That is why the government wants to sell Western Power. I have noted the shift in language. It is now about selling Western Power to continue to spend. The Premier, in his contribution, spent the vast majority of time talking about the most productive, world-competitive industry we have—mining—contributing 26 per cent to our gross state product. As the Premier said, it was just short of 50 per cent of the trade coming out of our ports. Now the government wants to impose an unproductive tax on that sector to get itself out of this mess. We know the National Party position, because the National Party is trying to create an impression that it is not part of this government: "We're sorry about this mess; we don't know what happened, but we have a way forward."

Now we have the Liberal Party playing footsies with the Nationals. This is perhaps one of the most dangerous outcomes we have seen in the last little while. Generally, as I have said in here before, we rely on the Liberal Party to hold the peanut gallery to account, but now it is playing footsies. It may not be \$5; it may be \$3 or \$2, but we know that the Liberal Party is going to do a deal with the Nationals. I found that change in language quite extraordinary. That tax will ensure that the mining sector is no longer the most productive in the world. That mining tax will ensure that the Brazilians suddenly can get their ore to market cheaper than we can.

There are outcomes and consequences that the Liberal Party, presumably the grown-ups in this relationship, is expected to stand up for. The Premier today made the point about the importance of the mining sector as the one that gives us world significance. The Premier and the Liberal Party are willing to entertain the National Party's idea, and that is an extraordinary outcome. I know Liberal backbench members know that is not a good outcome for the future of Western Australia.

We also see in its desperation for a third term that everything that has historically guided the Liberal Party is out the window. As I said, the sale of Western Power was about debt repayment, but now three views are emerging on whether there is a budget problem. On budget night there was no plan B. The Treasurer said that this was the only way it was going to resolve debt; the year before he said that any asset sales, and I quote, "will be going into reduced debt". Now, it is all about spend. For the Minister for Fisheries and the Premier, it is all about funding future spending. What has always happened under this mob is that money is not spent on economic infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition and the Premier had an exchange about the loss of James Price Point. I note that the Premier made the point that Labor lost Inpex to Darwin. Well, you guys lost James Price Point, full stop! What the government has done —

**Mr J.H.D. Day** interjected.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** That government includes the Leader of the House. The government says, "We are not delivering on economic income producing assets; it's time to spend to create another vision on assets that add to the recurrent side of government." I have made this point time and again when I have quoted from the speech the Premier made on 28 August 1991—his first substantial speech, as he says, when he came into this place, around debt. I want to quote another piece. The Premier, the then member for Cottesloe—he is still the member for Cottesloe, but he was not the Premier then—stated —

... we have increasing debt levels and borrowings but a higher proportion of those borrowings go not on building capital works—real things that last into the future—but on financing current Government activities. That has been a long term and disturbing trend. It means that we are not putting our borrowed money into assets that generate income; therefore, we are adding to the real debt burden of future generations. We are mortgaging the future to fund current consumption. That is a short-sighted form of economic management.

It may have been short-sighted back then, but it became the basis upon which he has operated in government. It became the basis upon which he has allocated money. It is now, apparently, becoming the basis upon which he wants to spend the Western Power proceeds on assets that do not generate income, to pay them off. That is why, as the Premier indicated way back in 1991, and we make the point: over half this government's net debt is now held in the general government sector for assets that do not produce income. It has its debt in Western Power and it has its debt in the Water Corporation—we all help pay that with our bills—but it is the net debt over 50 per cent, heading towards 60 per cent, in the general government sector that is the fundamental problem that the government has created. It refuses to acknowledge that at every turn. Even the Treasurer, who has spent a career writing about this, has now abandoned that. By way of an aside, on the Treasurer, I have only ever heard one person in this place say that we should not have built the Perth Stadium, and that is the Treasurer. He is the one person who has said that we should not have built it. I will quote him again, to remind members. He said —

"The stadium? Probably not, myself. I like footy, I probably wouldn't have done the stadium.

"I can understand it is very popular. Probably not ...

"But I probably wouldn't have gone ahead with that."

The only member in this place who did not want the stadium built is the Treasurer.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** And me.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** And the member for Hillarys did not want it.

In concluding my remarks I am not going to let the Premier get away with his comments about Aboriginal kids in care. To the day I die I will remember the Premier standing up and saying, "We will close 150 communities." I will remember the day he came in here and accused those communities of being riddled with gonorrhoea. I will remember the day when he said, "This is the problem", and that he moved the argument on when I put to him the rates of decline compared with the non-Aboriginal community. I will remember that, and I will remind people across the Kimberley and the Pilbara of the slander he uttered about people living in remote and regional Aboriginal communities. I will not forget that; let me tell you that right now!

In conclusion, this government has created the financial mess we now find ourselves in. It can blame whoever or whatever it likes. It has put the debt in the general government sector. It has created this mess and now it is seeking to abandon everything that the Liberal Party once stood for, to sell assets to create further spend, not to

reduce that debt, and to impose on our most productive industry a job-destroying, wealth-destroying tax to try to get itself a third term in government. That perhaps is the most outrageous thing of all.

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer)** [3.55 pm]: I thank members opposite for this chance to talk about our record. In going back to 2008, which the motion refers to, let us go back on a bit of history. We, the Liberal–National government, won the unwinnable election. It was a time of record revenue growth. The government of the day was awash with money. There were boom times. The unemployment rate was about zero per cent. How did the Labor government lose that election? The reason is clear. It failed. It had plenty of money. It knew what it should have done, but it could not get things done. It took forever to build the Perth Arena, the cost of which went from \$150 million to \$550 million. The cost of Fiona Stanley Hospital went from \$400 million to \$1.7 billion. It could not get things done. It went to the 2008 election —

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I call you for the first time.

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** And the second time.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** It went into the election with “Carp’s” the builder. He committed to a stadium, Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, a museum, Fiona Stanley Hospital—a \$12 billion spend—and he lost. We promised less. Why did we win? We promised we were going to concentrate on electricity, water, roads, hospitals and schools. That is what we did. We promised less. Why did the electorate go with us? It went with us because they did not believe Labor could deliver. It could not get things done. Every project it tried was over budget.

**Mr J.R. Quigley** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Butler.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Every project was over budget and beyond time.

We dealt with some real issues. Of course, we were a marginal government. Members will remember that we governed well, while at the same time the Gillard government governed poorly. We dealt with the global financial crisis. There was a dramatic plummet in oil activity. Admittedly, it rebounded, thanks to China. The Rudd stimulus package pumped money into the decline and made us deal with it. We had to rebuild the regions. The Labor government had denuded the regions. The wealth from the state came from the regions. Labor had abandoned the regions. We had to rebuild health, child protection, schools and mental health. We have totally rebuilt those things physical and financially. We rebuilt the state. Towards the end of the first term we started committing —

**Mr R.F. Johnson** interjected.

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

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** In 2012, noting that we were going from an investment to a production phase, we started to focus on diversifying the economy, as we did, in investment in Elizabeth Quay, the Perth Stadium and a range of investments. Despite Labor committing to those investments in 2008, in our first term it criticised every one of them. Labor promised every one of them in 2008 and then between 2008 and 2012 it turned around and criticised them, and it still does that today.

We went to the election in 2012. Treasury warned the Treasurer of the day that we were highly dependent upon a very volatile source of income—that is, iron ore prices—and warned the government to be careful. Treasury forecast that revenue from iron ore was going to continue to grow. It changed the forecast in 2012 and lowered the forecast of income, not increased it. Also, at the time of the 2012 election, Treasury said to the Labor Party, “Here’s your letter. Here’s the forecast. Let’s sit down and discuss this.” It gave the Labor Party the same warning. What did the Labor Party do? It committed to Metronet; it committed to the largest capital spend any opposition has ever committed to. All we can say with 100 per cent surety is that the debt would have been worse under them. The member for Victoria Park spoke about good debt and bad debt. It is true that in the government’s first term, most of our borrowings were from revenue-earning industries and businesses, such as electricity and water, and they went into general government revenue. Where is the opposition’s major commitment? It is in rail. Rail is losing money. It covers only 28 per cent of its operating costs. The totality of the initial capital and 70 per cent of its operating revenue is covered by debt. The opposition is committing to the largest increase in general government debt than we ever did. It is hypocrisy of the worst order.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

We are in the last sitting of this term of government before an election. I agree with a lot of things the member for Victoria Park said. He said in an interview, according to my notes —

You are very limited in this state with what you can do. You can raise taxes, you can cut spending or you can sell assets. That's all we've got.

The Labor Party, to win government, will need to be a credible financial fiscal space.

Members opposite have ruled out asset sales. Why? They have given no reasons.

A government member: Unions.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Unions. We know why. They are tugging their forelocks to the union bosses, despite union bosses buying assets when they are sold. They buy them but they do not want to sell them. Unions complain also about every attempt to restrain them.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, for Bassendean, I call you to order now for the third time. Thank you.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** On cutting spending, we know in this house that members opposite have resisted every effort we have made to restrain growth and expenditure, and we have now reduced expenditure to the lowest in 20 years. We heard the Leader of the Opposition telling porkies that we have cut spending in schools and hospitals, for example. They are out and out falsehoods. We have spent great amounts on those areas, but we have totally reformed general government expenditure on salaries to highlight and emphasise frontline services and reduce expenditure behind frontline services—a major transformation. What do members opposite say when the press ask them what they are going to do? They start stuttering and say, “Restrain growth and expenditure.” It is completely unbelievable.

When we came to government in 2008, salary growth was 13.5 per cent. Who would think a union-dominated Labor Party would restrain more than any other Labor Party the growth of the then Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union? It would not happen; it was unbelievable. Where does that leave the opposition?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Where does that leave the opposition? Members opposite will have no asset sales and no capability for restraining current expenditure beyond what we have done. The member for Victoria Park is not here but he said that he does not get the impression in the suburbs of Perth that people want services to be dramatically withdrawn, particularly in health and education—if anything, they want more. That is probably true. The Leader of the Opposition has ruled out asset sales. Members opposite have no capacity to cut expenditure. “What do we do?” the member for Victoria Park asked. “Do we replace it with a broad-based land tax?” Yes; that is good idea. That is what he did. What does that mean? It means there will be a land tax on the family home? That is what is coming; there is no other opportunity. Members opposite have backed themselves into a corner. They have no ability to cut expenditure and, because of their union connections, they have ruled out any asset sales. What else do they have? So far we have measured it; we have hounded them. The Labor Party has committed over \$5 billion worth of expenditure—and it is increasing. It is rubbish; it does not add up. A magic pudding does not exist. Here we go; we are taking them on.

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services)** [4.04 pm]: I say from the outset that there is a reason in the last week of this Parliament, the week following the United States presidential election, that the Labor Party has decided to start talking about jobs.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Grrrrr!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn! I call you to order now for the second time.

A government member: He thinks he's a dog.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** He has been hanging around me for too long!

Members opposite have suddenly realised that out in voter land, out in the communities and suburbs that will decide the outcome of the next election in March, a whole lot of tradies—fitters, electricians, bakers, baristas, cleaners, gardeners, brickies, crane drivers, tractor drivers, grader drivers, dump truck drivers and bobcat drivers—do not give a damn about what the Labor Party says in this Parliament. They do not care; they have made up their mind. They know that the 30 181 jobs that we highlighted on the weekend would not exist if it were up to members opposite. A lot of people have seen the outcome of the US presidential election and have said, “Oh, my God!” What were once called “Menzies forgotten people”, “Howard's battlers”, “Tony's tradies” and “Reagan's democrats” have all started to realise that a whole lot of people out there have noticed that if the Labor Party had its way, those jobs would not have been created. Roe 8 is exhibit one, your honour! After the next election, I guarantee that the Labor Party will rip up that contract and impact 3 000 people. I will admit that when we invest in these kinds of projects, we create two types of jobs. We create construction jobs and what I call the forever jobs—the jobs that

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

will go on regardless. Let me take Elizabeth Quay, for example. Once all the land has been finalised, it will be pretty much cost neutral to taxpayers. It is one of the greatest economic stimulus investments this state has made, because hundreds of people will work there. Sure, they will be low-income jobs, but they will be people who vote for us and not members opposite. A lot of them will be working as baristas.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, you have been called three times. If you shout out again, you will be having a rest—okay?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The member for Bassendean fails to realise that all these workers in the lower income areas, such as baristas, waiters, chefs, cleaners, lawnmower men and maintenance people, will not vote for the Labor Party. They would not even have a job—I am talking about the forever jobs—if it were up to the Labor Party because these projects would not exist. Despite all the rhetoric we hear from the other side about diversifying the economy, the reality is —

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

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

**Mr R.H. Cook:** No second.

**The SPEAKER:** It is the second time. Thank you. Honesty is the best policy. Let us try to finish this with some order.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** There are only three ways any government can diversify an economy. One way, which is what the Labor Party would do, is to direct private investment away from where those investors think they can make the best return—the mining sector for the last 15 years—into something from which they can make less return, whether it is tourism or whatever. They would direct that investment away. That is the first lever of government. The second lever is to invest money into projects that create infrastructure and jobs. Tick—we are doing that. Members opposite do not agree with that. The third way to diversify the economy—the Leader of the Opposition talks a lot about diversifying the economy—is to move government policy levers. The greatest thing this government has done to diversify the economy in Western Australia is to create jobs and reduce the cost of living on families who members opposite purport to want to represent. Opposition members fought every single inch of the way on our greatest achievement, which was deregulation of trading hours—and they are opposing further deregulation. They fought it all the way. I remember that in 2009, just after I was elected, I wrote to Aldi in New South Wales and said, “How about looking at Western Australia?” They wrote back and said, “Thank you very much, but we will not unless there is Sunday trading because no-Sunday trading does not suit our trading model.” Guess what Aldi has done? It has built an \$80 million warehouse in my electorate, which has created hundreds of jobs. As a result of the establishment of all the Aldi stores in everyone’s electorates, it has created thousands of jobs. What has that done for competition and the cost of living? What has that done for creating both full-time and part-time jobs in the metropolitan area and for making groceries cheaper for families? The opposition opposed it every single step of the way. Do not think I will not remind people in my electorate and every other electorate about the greatest single lever members opposite could have pulled with us to diversify the economy, which they opposed and still oppose. The member for Armadale knows I am right on this. The opposition still opposes further deregulation. When the opposition looks at its policy on local content it does not have to go too far back in history to realise that the Labor Party will say one thing when it is in government and something else when it is in opposition—the two never meet. Labor members are full of it when they are in opposition, but when it comes to walking the walk, there is no chance. Exhibit 1 is the floating dry dock, back in 2006–07. I have spoken about this before in this place

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The member or Cockburn can laugh about it, but the Labor government did not have it built here, did it? The late great Jock Ferguson was right, and members know that he was right. He said that it was a great travesty that it was not built here. It was one of the single biggest steel projects in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Perth, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time for having the longest private meeting in the chamber since I have been the Speaker. If you want a meeting, go outside!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It was one of the largest projects in its time, in 2006–07. It was managed by Alannah MacTiernan. We need only mention her first name; we all know who she is, according to the Leader of the Opposition. In 2006–07, one of the biggest steel construction projects in the state’s history went out for tender many times. The project started at about \$60 million and increased to \$90 million, and then went up to \$174 million. Where did the Labor government have it made? It was made in Vietnam. Why? It was because members opposite know that it was right for government to be prudent with taxpayers’ money.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]

p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

According to the Labor Party's little red book of policy, it would not have the private sector be prudent with shareholders' money though, would it? No; they are silent. The Labor Party directed all the major infrastructure companies to build stuff here, even if it was more expensive; therefore, it would make all those major future projects unviable.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cockburn.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** And members opposite have the hide to lecture the National Party about a tax.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It is the one for Elizabeth Quay, and I am pretty sure it was made in Australia. I am happy to talk about whether members in here talk the talk or walk the walk. We do not have to go too far to look at the hypocrisy of the Labor Party. We have only to go to the members' car park to see what kind of cars opposition members drive; meanwhile, the Australian car industry collapses around us. How many people buy Australian-made cars?

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The member for West Swan is driving a Fiat. She cannot even buy an Australian-made car but she comes in here and lectures government and the private sector on local content. Seriously! The bottom line is that over 30 000 people out there now have jobs —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Right!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** There are 30 181 people out there who now have jobs because of the investment this government made in infrastructure. Countless more jobs will come out of many of those projects, such as Elizabeth Quay, the bigger stadium and the Midland Public Hospital. None of these things would have happened if the Labor Party had had its way.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We intend to spend every single day between now and the March election reminding the mums and dads out there who are struggling to make ends meet that if they think it is tough at the moment, it would have been so much worse under a Labor government. We will be out there reminding all the people who opposition thinks would vote Labor—tradies, labourers, brickies, sparkies and plumbers—that we represent their values and their aspirations. We represent them. The Liberal Party and the National Party will govern for their interests.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cannington.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We do not govern in the interests of the union movement that the Labor Party so happily lets control their preselection processes. We will govern for the working class, because the Labor Party has failed them dismally.

*Division*

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr P. Abetz) casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (20)

Ms L.L. Baker  
Dr A.D. Buti  
Mr R.H. Cook  
Ms J. Farrer  
Ms J.M. Freeman

Mr R.F. Johnson  
Mr W.J. Johnston  
Mr D.J. Kelly  
Mr F.M. Logan  
Mr M. McGowan

Ms S.F. McGurk  
Mr M.P. Murray  
Mr P. Papalia  
Ms M.M. Quirk  
Mrs M.H. Roberts

Ms R. Saffioti  
Mr C.J. Tallentire  
Mr P.B. Watson  
Mr B.S. Wyatt  
Mr D.A. Templeman (*Teller*)

**Extract from *Hansard***  
[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 15 November 2016]  
p8013d-8026a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Bill Johnston; Speaker; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Ben Wyatt; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Joe Francis

---

Noes (33)

Mr P. Abetz  
Mr F.A. Alban  
Mr C.J. Barnett  
Mr G.M. Castrilli  
Mr V.A. Catania  
Mr M.J. Cowper  
Ms M.J. Davies  
Mr J.H.D. Day  
Ms W.M. Duncan

Ms E. Evangel  
Mr J.M. Francis  
Mrs G.J. Godfrey  
Mr B.J. Grylls  
Dr K.D. Hames  
Mrs L.M. Harvey  
Mr C.D. Hatton  
Mr A.P. Jacob  
Dr G.G. Jacobs

Mr A. Krsticevic  
Mr S.K. L'Estrange  
Mr R.S. Love  
Mr J.E. McGrath  
Mr P.T. Miles  
Ms A.R. Mitchell  
Mr N.W. Morton  
Dr M.D. Nahan  
Mr D.C. Nalder

Mr J. Norberger  
Mr D.T. Redman  
Mr A.J. Simpson  
Mr M.H. Taylor  
Mr T.K. Waldron  
Ms L. Mettam (*Teller*)

---

Pairs

Mr P.C. Tinley  
Mr J.R. Quigley

Mr I.M. Britza  
Mr W.R. Marmion

Question thus negatived.