

TAX CUTS — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

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

I refer to the Premier's pathetic response yesterday when he refused, as Premier of Western Australia, to advocate for tax cuts for all Western Australians. How can the Premier involve himself in federal issues, namely the chaos and division within Labor associated with John Setka and Christy Cain, but cannot involve himself with desperately needed tax cuts for 1.4 million Western Australians that will help struggling households, small businesses, and much-needed jobs?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The member has spent three days as opposition leader and is already repeating her questions. I will repeat my answer. We are the state Parliament. The Liberal Party in office put up land tax on small businesses across Western Australia three times.

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** What have you done?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The member for Bateman has a very short memory. I am going to remind him of what the former government did. There was \$1.5 billion worth of land tax increases on small businesses across Western Australia during its time in office. That is what it did. But I had forgotten about another thing it did in office. Remember the cancelling of the payroll tax reduction? When the Liberal Party came into office, payroll tax reductions for small business were already scheduled and legislated. Who came to office and legislated to abolish them? The Liberals and Nationals did!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the Liberal–National government came into office —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** We raised the threshold.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The former government cut the legislated payroll tax reductions. From memory, Treasurer, I recall it also got rid of cuts to stamp duty when it came into office. Admittedly, that was 10 years ago, but I have a long memory. When the former government was in office, it put up fees and charges by more than \$2 100 per household. That is what happened.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine and member for Bateman, it is your last warning!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We are the state Parliament. This government is getting on with the job of fixing the mess we were left.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We are getting on with the job of getting the debt and deficit we were left under control.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** A question was asked. I want to hear the answer. There is just a wall of noise.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You may note, Mr Speaker, that yesterday's *The Australian* had on its front page a story about each of the states of Australia. The only state in Australia that has debt going down is Western Australia, under this Labor government.