

GOLD ROYALTY — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET

**482. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Premier:**

I refer to comments made by the Leader of the Opposition that by blocking an increase in the gold royalty, the opposition is helping to repair the state's finances. Is that true; and, if so, in what way does blocking a \$400 million revenue measure help repair the state's finances, and in what ways does it help mums and dads and ordinary Western Australians?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Thornlie for the question. I must say, even by the Leader of the Opposition's standards, those comments were bizarre. To actually go out there and publicly say that removing \$400 million from the state's finances is helping to repair the budget is the most convoluted reasoning one could ever imagine. The opposition has adopted unprecedented action to block a government budget measure for improving the situation we inherited upon arriving in office. The idea that \$400 million is not even worth worrying about says it all about the last government. When it lost tens of billions of dollars, that was the reason why. It was constantly losing hundreds of millions after hundreds of millions of dollars, and that adds up. When that amount is lost constantly, it adds up, and we very quickly end up with tens of billions of dollars, as the previous government did when it was in office.

The Liberal Party is saying that the highly profitable gold industry should not contribute to budget repair in Western Australia. Instead, the Liberal and National Parties are saying that ordinary families should be the ones who pick up the debt that they created. Members opposite will now have to go out and look ordinary families in the eye —

Several members interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** I didn't speak, Mr Speaker.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They will now have to go out and look ordinary families in the eye and say, "You need to contribute to fix the mess the Liberal Party created." The previous government was the most —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Does everybody want question time to keep on going? The way this is going, it will not.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They will need to look ordinary families in the eye and explain why they are imposing the burden of budget repair that they created on ordinary Western Australian families. When the previous government arrived in office —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the previous government arrived in office, it inherited \$3.6 billion in debt; it is now \$33 billion, and the forward estimates have it going over \$42 billion. That is the inheritance it left this government, but we will not be deterred from fixing the mess it left in place. As I understand it, the final vote on the gold royalty has not yet occurred. I urge the Liberal Party to reconsider its budget wrecking and act responsibly so that ordinary families are not the ones who have to pick up the debt it created.