

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PLAN

153. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Defence Issues:

I refer to yet another advertisement in today's *The West Australian* by Western Australia's federal Liberals who no longer claim the state is getting 50 per cent of work from the "Naval Shipbuilding Plan", but now claim that they are securing jobs. Can the minister clarify which state the WA federal Liberals are actually securing jobs for?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member and welcome her to this place; it is my first opportunity to do that formally. It is wonderful to see her here. Today we saw the third edition of the forlorn attempts by the federal Western Australian Liberal Party, in fact the entire Western Australian Liberal Party, to convince Western Australian voters that somehow they are getting a good deal with the Turnbull government's shipbuilding plan. It is undeniable that \$86 billion of \$89 billion is going to South Australia with the ship and submarine build, and, as a consequence, Western Australians will not be convinced that they are getting a good deal. Recently I went to Canberra and met with my good friend Christopher Pyne. He is a good guy. He was interesting, and a very cheerful and entertaining bloke and worth listening to. Although we had a fruitful discussion, he did not agree with me about the location of ship builds. When I met with him, we also met with the chair of the federal government's Naval Shipbuilding Taskforce, a gentleman called Marc Ablong. One would imagine that he would have knowledge of where the ships and submarines are going to be built and how much work is going to each of the states. In our discussions he had to concede that of the \$89.5 billion allocated to ship and submarine construction, \$86 billion was going to South Australia. He had to concede that the Turnbull government's "Naval Shipbuilding Plan" states that 5 200 shipbuilding jobs will be created in South Australia by 2022, but on the same subject, in respect of Western Australia, it also states —

... there is unlikely to be a requirement for a rapid increase in employment over a short period of time.

It is found on page 67, should any of the Western Australian Liberals choose to look it up. It is clear—the Western Australian public has got the message: we are duded on the GST. There is no appetite by the Turnbull government to address that problem. There is also a complete rip-off when it comes to the distribution of infrastructure money. Even the \$2.3 billion deal that the Minister for Transport was able to get across the line nowhere near evens the ledger there. I hope that she keeps trying to extract some more, but right now Western Australians know that they are duded. It is undeniable that Western Australia is being completely duded when it comes to a share of the shipbuilding funding from the federal government. The only thing that will change people's minds is a change by the Turnbull government. I am very interested to see when the opposition will join us in demanding a better share for Western Australia.