

STATE ECONOMY — EMPLOYMENT — AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

435. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question.

Given the Premier's comments after the election that Western Australia was in the worst shape since the Great Depression, and he is now faced with a Western Australian economy that is significantly smaller than when he took office two years ago, with more unemployed Western Australians than when his government was elected —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — how does the Premier describe his economic management now?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The Leader of the Opposition has shown that she does not understand the state's economy or the state's finances. The state's economy has grown and is growing. The only time the state's economy was in recession was the year 2016–17, when members opposite were in office. Under us, the economy is growing and is predicted to grow across the forward estimates. The Leader of the Opposition does not even understand the most basic of economic facts.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: She does not understand the most basic of economic facts. If the first question she asks —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: This will be a short question time. I know that everyone is trying to look very strong and tough today, but will you be strong and tough if I throw you out?

Mr M. McGOWAN: If, in the first question the Leader of the Opposition asks, she does not understand the most basic of economic things and gets her facts wrong, it does not auger well for the future.