

OUTER HARBOUR TASK FORCE — ESTABLISHMENT

367. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Treasurer:

Given that the state Labor conference resolutions are binding, will the government cease wasting any further taxpayer funds on its ill-conceived outer harbour plan or does it intend to ignore the unions and the Labor lay party?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you have got your own member on his feet answering the question.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Of course the Labor Party is committed to the outer harbour, but what we will not need to do when it is developed is ensure that other members of other states of our commonwealth need a passport to access it! I think it is important that we as a nation stay united as a nation. I think we as Australians should stay united as Australians. The Western Australian Liberal Party wants to secede from the rest of the nation. The federal Liberal Party wants to declare war on our Anzac colleagues, the New Zealanders, and I find it stunning that we would want to disparage our history so dramatically. I could go on, but I will not. It was noted that there is a range of views about the timing of the outer harbour. We took a very clear view to the election and that is what we are committed to. Ultimately, we have differences of opinion.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I, for example, noted that the Leader of the Opposition did not support the motion to secede, but then I noticed on Channel Nine news members of his staff voting to secede—so we all have a range of different views in our particular parties, do we not, Deputy Leader of the Opposition? The Labor Party took a very clear view to the election about the outer harbour. We will proceed with the policy as per our election commitment and I am sure that all members of the Labor Party will be delighted once we commence an important policy, which, can I just say, will provide for Western Australians perhaps one of the most significant investments in economic infrastructure that we have seen in a long time. I think everybody accepts that there is a finite life to Fremantle port and getting on with the outer harbour is an important part of it. Ultimately, I know the Leader of the Opposition's view. Clearly his view, and the view of his mates—one of the most exclusive clubs in Western Australia—is also the view of some other people around Western Australia as well, but ultimately Labor will proceed with its election commitments.