

SMALL BUSINESS — HOUSING INDUSTRY

300. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Small Business:

I have a supplementary question. Given the significant impact the government's policies have had on small business in the construction industry in Western Australia, why does the minister continue to support Bill Shorten and his job-destroying negative gearing and capital gains tax policies when all the evidence shows that they will have an even greater negative impact on Western Australia's small businesses?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I cannot believe the member asked that supplementary question, having listened to the Premier explain that the proposed changes to negative gearing apply to existing buildings, not to new construction. Any claim that it is somehow going to have a negative impact on construction—new housing and builders who build buildings—is just ridiculous. It is exactly the opposite. I understand there are some lobbyists right across the nation, with vested interests, who believe it is in their interest to campaign for a failed federal government —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

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

Mr P. PAPALIA: — that has had three Prime Ministers in six years. I understand that is out there. I understand there are all manner of —

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: — ridiculous commissioned reports making stupid claims about the impact of that policy.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: But of all the potential claimed impacts, to claim that one is just plain silly.