

PAYROLL TAX — THRESHOLD

649. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

By his own admission, the Premier believes that reducing payroll tax for small business is desirable. Many business and industry leaders have also stated their desire for this to happen, and that such a move would stimulate and help grow the Western Australian economy.

- (1) In light of this and the government's better than expected fiscal position, will the Premier now seriously consider One Nation's previous proposal to raise the payroll tax threshold to \$1 000 000?
- (2) If not, can the Premier please provide me with the amount of revenue the government stands to lose by increasing the payroll tax threshold by \$150 000, from \$850 000 to \$1 000 000?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The state government is committed to job creation and recognises that changes to payroll tax is something that is desirable. The government is also committed to repaying the \$40 billion plus debt left to the taxpayers of Western Australia by the previous government, a commitment acknowledged by the recent upgrading of the state's credit rating. We will continue to monitor the issue of increasing the payroll tax threshold while continuing to pay down state debt.