

BHP SOUTH FLANK PROJECT — OFFSHORE STEEL FABRICATION WORK

578. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to an article in *The West Australian* online of 14 August titled “Union fury as BHP sends South Flank steel work offshore”.

- (1) Has the Premier met with BHP to attempt to convince it to use Western Australian steel manufacturers?
- (2) If yes to (1), on what dates did the Premier meet with BHP, and who was present?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) What options did the Premier put on the table to incentivise BHP to use local steel manufacturers?
- (5) Does the Premier believe it is appropriate for BHP to send 20 000 tonnes of structural steelwork to north east China when Western Australia’s fabricators have the ability to undertake the work?

The PRESIDENT: I think that last part of the question might be seeking an opinion, Leader of the House. You might have the answer to that.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

Madam President, surely you are right. I was going to say you may be right, but of course you would always be right. I have an answer anyway.

- (1)–(3) The Premier has met with BHP on the following dates with the following people present: 23 March 2017, Mike Henry, Hon Bill Johnston, Neil Roberts and Guy Houston; 7 April 2017, Andrew Mackenzie and Guy Houston; 28 April 2017, George Wright and Guy Houston; 21 July 2017, BHP workers, Jamie MacDonald, Cale Black and Jo Gaines; 2 August 2017, Edgar Basto, Steve Wood, Guy Houston and Jo Gaines; 24 October 2017, Hedland Senior High School trade training students, Jamie MacDonald, Caitlin Goddard and Cale Black; 24 October 2017, BHP port operations, Jamie MacDonald, Caitlin Goddard and Cale Black; 23 March 2018, Edgar Basto, Kristin Berger, Guy Houston and Jo Gaines; 7 May 2018, George Wright, Hon Bill Johnston, Neil Roberts and Jo Gaines; 25 May 2018, BHP South Flank Forum, Daniel Pastorelli, Caitlin Goddard and Cale Black; 14 June 2018, Eddy Haegel, Rob Carruthers and Jo Gaines; 2 July 2018, Andrew Mackenzie, Edgar Basto, George Wright, Rob Clifford, Guy Houston and Jo Gaines; and 25 July 2018, Edgar Basto, Mike Henry, Jo Gaines, Lannie LePatterson and Cale Black.
- (4)–(5) The Premier uses every opportunity to promote local content and local jobs and has discussed with representatives of BHP the importance of using local steel manufacturers, including addressing prospective tenderers at an event in May 2018. The Premier continues to raise the issue with BHP.