

TAX CUTS — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Premier being so mean spirited by denying over one million Western Australian taxpayers their hard earned money, preventing them from getting their hard earned cash back?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about mean spirited, let us talk about the land tax increases put in place by the Liberal Party when it was in office. I want to quote someone. I am glad the former member for Roe is down the back. I want to quote former member of Parliament, Michael Sutherland, and what he had to say about the previous government's land tax increases. He was the Speaker; he was a very distinguished member of this Parliament.

The SPEAKER: It is a very important job, Premier.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He had this to say about the increases in land tax under the last government. He said —

... land tax hikes had been “too sudden and too much”.

“I'm disappointed, land tax is a wealth tax and about two months ago I brought it up in the party room,” ...

It was in 2016 that Michael Sutherland had that to say about the land tax increases of the last government. Further, after he lost his electorate to the now outstanding member for Mount Lawley—where is he? He is out working in Mount Lawley as we speak!

The SPEAKER: Here he is! He just walked through!

Mr M. McGOWAN: He is back!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: It is all in the timing, members.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Attributing the loss of his electorate, which of course has impacted the businesses on Beaufort Street and the like, that the last Liberal government imposed upon them, he said —

“There was land tax, the taxi drivers, the things that didn't go away and there were too many balls in the air,” he said.

If we want to talk about tax increases, I think we can look at the extraordinary increases in land tax put in place by the last government that hurt the people of Mount Lawley, and the small businesses on Beaufort Street. That is the Liberal Party's responsibility.