

**RESOURCES SECTOR — LOCAL CONTENT REPORTS**

*Motion*

**HON JON FORD (Mining and Pastoral)** [10.05 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house condemns the government for its complete lack of accountability regarding the issue of Western Australian jobs from Western Australian resources and calls on the government to show its commitment to local jobs and training by releasing in full, all local content reports held by its agencies.

Before I go into the substance of the debate, I would like to put this matter in context. Western Australia is currently running unemployment levels at about 4.2 per cent. If we assume the population is around 2.5 million, that is somewhere around 100 000 people seeking work. If that is taken across the nation, that number has exponential growth. For those 100 000 or so people, there is no boom; they are missing out. That is a failure by this Parliament and the government to deliver those benefits to those people. We know that costs are rising for those people. The cost of living is rising, and the ability to get affordable housing is almost non-existent. During June this year I made an application to the freedom of information coordinator at the Department of State Development couched in the following way —

In accordance with the Western Australian Freedom of Information Act 1992 I wish to apply for the following:

A copy of all local content reports in relation to the Gorgon Gas Development on Barrow Island.

That is quite a simple request. In fact, a condition of that state agreement for that project is that they report regularly on local content provisions for that project, and to date eight reports have been delivered to the government. I will go into why this application was rejected. The reply I got on 28 June 2011 states —

Gorgon gas is subject to a State Agreement and is required to provide a local content report.

We know that —

State Agreements requiring reporting are considered confidential.

I do not know why that would be. It goes on —

The information is commercially sensitive as it contains information which if disclosed would cause unreasonable detriment to the owner of the information or another party.

That is an extraordinary statement. I am not asking for trade secrets. I am not asking for contract details or commercial details. I am just asking: how much of the work to be done is being done in Australia, and Western Australia in particular, and how many jobs does that mean? It also goes on to say —

Local content reports contain information about commercial operations of both Gorgon Gas and its suppliers which is commercially sensitive. Gorgon Gas and the suppliers are in a competitive market.

I cannot see how telling us the number of contracts that go to Western Australian and Australian companies and the number of jobs it is estimated they will create can cause detrimental value to the company. It also states —

... Matter is exempt matter if its disclosure ... could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on those affairs or to prejudice the future supply of information of that kind to the Government or to an agency ...

The state agreement is law; it has been passed by this Parliament. The Parliament demands that those reports be given and those reports have to be given. What is the point of having a state agreement that asks for local content reports if the Parliament cannot scrutinise them? What is there to hide? Why would anyone reject this? It then goes on in another extract on limits on exemptions, and states —

... Matter is not exempt matter under subclause (1), (2) or (3) —

They are the ones I have talked about —

merely because its disclosure would reveal information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of an agency.

... Matter is not exempt under subclauses (1), (2) or (3) merely because its disclosure would reveal information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of the applicant.

... Matter is not exempt matter under subclause (1), (2) or (3) if the applicant provides evidence establishing that the person concerned consents to the disclosure of the matter to the applicant.

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... Matter is not exempt matter under subclause (3) if its disclosure would, on balance, be in the public interest.

I can tell members that it is in the public interest because these resources, this gas, belongs to the people of Western Australia. The Leader of the House actually confirmed on a number of occasions in regard to the debates over the mining tax that these resources belong to Western Australians, and we agree with him. Ultimately, it is this Parliament's job to ensure that Western Australians are getting the best benefit from these resources and these projects.

We do not have to actually rely on that information, because I have received a number of reports and have looked at a number of public releases and I wanted to confirm whether what they said was true. Some are negative and some are false, and I will go through a few of those. As I said, eight reports have been produced to date, the last one delivered on 9 May 2011, with exemptions based on commercial-in-confidence provisions. It is not beyond somebody in the department to just put a white-out marker on any of the stuff that is regarded as commercial-in-confidence; but, no, the department is just not going to release it. I could have appealed the process, but I do not think that would have any effect as prior appeals have not been successful. In this house the minister, in refusing to give information, has also stated that his and the government's intent is to maximise these benefits, but has talked about matters being commercial-in-confidence. Indeed, on other matters, including asbestos management plans, I have been refused access on the same grounds that somehow it will be detrimental to the business. That is a safety issue, and another issue for another time.

In the early days Chevron put out a press release headed "Australian Industry Participation — Key Facts". Under the "Steel fabrication" section, it specifically states —

Early last year, Chevron worked very hard to structure some of the larger steel packages (Pre-assembled racks/Pre-assembled units) so local companies could bid for the work.

Unfortunately, the local bids were significantly uncompetitive.

In many other sectors (transport, logistics, services, accommodation ... —

I will talk about that —

local companies have been competitive internationally and have secured significant contracts with the Gorgon Project.

These reports are important because we can define what "significant" is. I can tell members that Chevron's idea of significant, my idea of significant and the Western Australian people's idea of significant are very, very different. I want to know why the local bids were significantly uncompetitive, if indeed they were, and what the reasons are for that. Chevron alludes to that in other press releases when referring to other issues and to companies not reacting to those bids, and claims —

The projects will generate almost \$50 billion in expenditure on Australian goods and services and will bolster Government coffers by more than \$60 billion through various tax revenue streams.

Chevron states that it is committed to local jobs and local training. Remember that every single bit of fabrication and every single bit of supply that goes overseas mean that there are jobs for those people overseas, and people in Western Australia are missing out, particularly on training, capacity-building opportunities and gaining their fair share of the boom.

There is a campaign that everybody is aware of called "WA Jobs From WA Resources: What Can Be Made Here Should Be Made Here". On 4 March a press release went out from that campaign headed "\$7.4 billion of Gorgon's local content claims misleading", and states —

In a document circulated to WA media in February, Chevron claimed it had invested more than \$10billion in Australian industry to date. In an accompanying document, Chevron identified just over \$10billion in let contracts with Australian industry participation.

I will refer to that press release and then indicate that what Chevron says is wrong. It states that the value of the KJVG head contract is \$2.7 billion. The claim states —

Vast majority of Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management work done overseas. Major JV partner KBR does majority of work in UK. Despite Clough being a part of the JV, little of this work is performed in WA.

That is a pretty big claim. If we had the opportunity to look at these reports to the Department of State Development, perhaps we could see who is right and who is wrong, but we cannot. We just have to take Chevron's word for it that it is in fact delivering what it says it is delivering.

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**Hon Simon O'Brien:** Whose press release is this? Can you identify the document you are quoting from?

**Hon JON FORD:** I have already, but I will do it again. It is a media release from the campaign "WA Jobs From WA Resources".

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** By whom and what date?

**Hon JON FORD:** I do not have very much time. It is dated 4 March 2011. I am happy to table the document, if the member wants it. I seek leave to table the document.

Leave granted. [See paper 3589.]

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** Thank you.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** I can't believe he's not seen it up to now.

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** It's required under the standing orders for him to identify it; you stupid woman!

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Oh, calm down!

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Members, this is a very limited, organised, structured debate in which members have certain time to speak and other members have a certain other time to respond. I think it is unfair if a lot of time of any member on their feet is taken up with interjections.

**Hon JON FORD:** Thank you, Mr President. The claim continues —

LNG Jetty & Marine Structures	\$1 billion	Most of the jetty manufactured in Malaysia and shipped to Western Australia.
Offshore Pipelay	\$1 billion	Steel pipes manufactured in Japan. Finishing in Malaysia.
LNG & Condensate Tanks	\$600 million	Tanks made in Thailand with Japanese steel.
Construction Village	\$520 million	Engineering done in Qatar, fabrication of modules in Thailand.
Installation of Domestic Gas Pipe	\$300 million	Steel pipes manufactured in Japan. Finishing in Malaysia.
Power Systems	\$250 million	Substations from overseas.
Tugs & Barges	\$240 million	Tugs and other vessels manufactured overseas.
Rotary Wing Services	\$200 million	Helicopters manufactured overseas.
Fixed Wing Services	\$165 million	Aeroplanes manufactured overseas.
Telecommunications and Electronic Systems	\$150 million	Electrical equipment coming from overseas.
Concrete Supply	\$120 million	90 cement tankers made in China, with cement being imported from China as well.
Westsea Marine – support vessels for the Leighton-Saipem Consortium	\$100 million	Tugs and other vessels brought in from overseas.
Onshore pipeline installation	\$85 million	Steel pipes manufactured in Japan. Finishing in Malaysia.

The important thing about having access to those reports is to work out who is telling the truth. However, I am leaning towards this report. The reason I am leaning toward this report is that a lot of it is confirmed by press releases either in the media reporting on the award of significant tenders or by Chevron itself. An article by Rebecca Lawson on 15 September 2009 in *BusinessNews* under the subheading "helping business grow" stated —

**Clough JV wins \$2.7bn Gorgon contract**

...

A joint venture including Perth-based engineering firm Clough has been awarded a key \$2.7 billion contract for the massive Gorgon gas project.

That is the head contract. It lists through all the different parts. It is stated at the bottom of the article —

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In a statement, Clough said work for the EPCM contract will be conducted from two main operating centres in Perth and in London, with support centres in the US, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan.

The JV will also use several fabrication yards across South East Asia and Australia to support the planned 250,000 tonnes of LNG modules.

“As an Australian based EPC contractor, Clough is delighted to be playing a major role ...

It is an Australian-based company. I want to know whether the \$2.7 billion is being claimed as Australian content, Western Australian content or overseas content. I want to know what the proportion of that is. I think that Chevron is actually claiming it as Western Australian content.

There is another article; an online article titled “Japan steelmakers to supply pipe for Australian LNG development: Manufacturing: Primary Metal Manufacturing from AllBusiness.com”. The article states —

Japanese steelmakers JFE Steel Corp. and Marubeni-Itochu Steel were awarded a large-volume pipe order for the Chevron-operated Gorgon LNG development in Australia.

This is a billion-dollar offshore pipeline contract and a \$300 million domestic gas pipeline. This is bread-and-butter work and ideal for training. It involves high-skilled welding and it creates good tradespeople with internationally exportable skills. Remember, we are talking about 100 000 people who are not working in Western Australia—if ever there was something we wanted, it would be a great opportunity for those people.

There is a press release from Wasco headed “Gorgon Upstream Project”. The client is recorded as Chevron Australia Pty Ltd located in Western Australia. I do not have the date, I am sorry. The press release states —

Wasco Energy’s Pipe Coating Division has been awarded a US \$162.9 million line pipe coating contract for the Chevron Gorgon Upstream Project.

...

The Wasco Energy Pipe Coating Division specializes in pipe coating and corrosion protection services. The company operates coating plants in Malaysia, China, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.

What is the missing component in that? It is Western Australia or Australia. This is a coating contract. Members cannot tell me that we do not have the capacity in this country for these sorts of contracts. I know we have the capacity. If we do not quite have the capacity, we have the ability to build that capacity, but we should be attempting to build that capacity in Western Australia, because that is an exportable job. It gets into the supply chain. These companies are successful because, although they do not have the resources, they have the ability to get into the supply chain. That is where we need to be going because, sooner or later, we will run out of the resource. The press release continues —

Wasco Energy Ltd. is an energy services company, headquartered in Malaysia, offering a wide spectrum of oil and gas products and services, such as:

- Pipe coating and corrosion protection
- Pipe manufacturing
- Process equipment engineering and fabrication

Remember that Chevron claimed in its first press release that it would give a heck of a lot of business to internationally competitive Australian companies in regards to accommodation.

An article available at [businessreviewaustralia.com](http://businessreviewaustralia.com), dated 13 January 2011, under the heading “Company Report: Gorgon Construction Village: A Home Among the Gas Fields” refers to a \$529 million contract by Chevron Australia Pty Ltd to build and construct the village on Barrow Island. It states —

Following this, another \$500 million contract was awarded to Thiess in a stand-alone agreement to provide site and bulk earthworks ...

“The objective of the Gorgon Construction Village Project is to provide accommodation for the more than 3,000 personnel constructing the LNG gas trains ...

So this is the lead-up work.

“We’ve got about 550 employees based in Perth and on site accommodated in a fly camp set up on Barrow Island. We have a village design team based in Qatar and also a large team in Thailand to manage Siam Steel who are contracted to fabricate the accommodation modules.”

If ever there was a state that needed to build capacity in its ability to build accommodation, it has to be Western Australia, because, I can tell members, there is a big shortage of accommodation, especially in the regions. It is

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one of the reasons that we have companies building these construction camps in WA. If we could use these sorts of levers to build local companies, or invest in local companies to build this capacity, they could be located locally and train local people to build those houses locally in the regions. It is a great opportunity. I will not talk about the merits of the project—I think Chevron is a good company—but, as I said, there is a requirement under the agreement act, which was agreed to in this place, that they provide these reports on local content. We have to accept their word if we do not see contracts. The government hides behind commercial-in-confidence. I look forward to the government's response in explaining to us how it will ensure that Western Australians get the best bang for their buck. As I said before, 100 000 people plus are out of work and these resources belong to Western Australia. It is our job to ensure taxpayers get the best out of their investment.

**HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan)** [10.26 am]: I support this motion. I listened intently to what has been said by my learned colleague Hon Jon Ford. When I hear some of this stuff, it absolutely makes me sick in the stomach. It makes me sick in the stomach that this government has so little regard for the people of Western Australia and for their future. When we have to sit and watch Western Australian jobs go overseas because this government is not prepared to do the right thing and ensure that Western Australian companies and Western Australian workers get their fair share of the benefits of this boom, then I have to say that that is very concerning. I say again, it makes me sick to the stomach when we hear that 100 000 people are not working in Western Australia and the chances of getting work are almost negligible because companies are missing out on opportunities. It paints a picture of a very bleak future.

I want to quickly put on the public record that when the minister for training took on this portfolio and continually got up and said, "I'm not just the minister for training; I'm actually also the minister for workforce development", he made a big song and dance out of it. One could have expected the minister to do something about workforce development. An integral part of workforce development of course is a strong local content policy, but this minister does not seem to have any interest in the local content policy. As the minister, he cannot understand why employers will not take on apprentices. The simple fact is employers will not take on apprentices because the employers are not getting the local contracts to get the business to be able to take on the apprentices. It is not rocket science. There is no doubt the Minister for Training and Workforce Development has been an abject failure in the portfolio. First, we see thousands of people suffer from the cold this winter, then we see people out of pocket because of the feed-in tariff, and now it has come to light that basically the minister has just not been training Western Australians to take up Western Australian jobs. When he is put under pressure over the outcomes of his training portfolio, he goes to water and talks about the achievements of his portfolio. He has disaggregated education and training and created a new department. His next claim to fame is that he has rebadged colleges. The key indicator in the training portfolio is the number of people who are trained, the number of people who have upskilled, and the number of people who can use those skills in order to get a good job and have a productive life. The simple fact is he is failing. He has been an abject failure on that account.

Western Australian taxpayers spend no less than \$500 million annually on training. Yesterday I advised the house that in those two key indicators—that is, training effort—the number of people participating in training who are of working age, between 15 and 64 years, has increased by only 13 000 since the minister took on this portfolio; that is 4 300 extra people each year. How hopeless is that for a Department of Training and Workforce Development and a Minister for Training and Workforce Development supposed to be preparing the Western Australian workforce to take on the demands and opportunities that will be presented by the boom? It is absolutely hopeless. In three years the number of apprenticeships and traineeships has increased by fewer than 3 000. That is fewer than 1 000 extra apprentices and trainees trained in this state each year. By any measure that is just shocking. Why are those apprentices and trainees not being given the opportunities? It is simple; the job goes offshore. This minister and this government pay no attention to local-content policy and just sit back and watch Western Australians miss out and the next generation of Western Australians being denied opportunities. When I meet with industry, industry tells me that it has to turn young people, and not-so-young people, away because they simply do not have funded places. I put to the minister that I think he should publicly explain why that is the case. While Western Australians are denied these opportunities, the minister has managed to take himself on a holiday to England and Ireland to source 150 000 migrant workers in preparation to take up jobs by 2017. It just beggars belief.

**Hon Norman Moore** interjected.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** The Leader of the House should hang his head in shame; he should not interrupt because his government does not have a leg to stand on when it comes to its training record. The government has spent more than \$500 million a year to produce fewer than 3 000 additional apprentices and trainees in training since 2008. That is a total \$1.5 billion over three years. The Leader of the House wants to interrupt me? He should be ashamed of himself.

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**Hon Norman Moore:** I think you should take a Valium and lie down for a while.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** The Leader of the House does not like it because it is the truth.

During the global financial crisis up to 7 000 apprentices had to walk away from their jobs because they got sacked. I asked the minister why that happened and he answered that it was because they had all gone on a sabbatical. It is a bit like in a university; people go on sabbaticals! The fact is that 7 000 apprentices got sacked. The out-of-contract register for apprenticeships and traineeships shows a picture in which very little effort has been made to put those apprentices and trainees back into jobs. The reason apprentices and trainees cannot be put back into jobs is that those jobs and training opportunities are not there. Once again, they are not there because local businesses are not picking up their fair share of the contracts—that is, contracts that we would rightly expect to be delivered in the areas of design, drafting, manufacturing, engineering, fabricating and so on and so forth. The contracts are not there; they are just gone. I do not want to live in a society with an emerging underclass. I do not want to live in a society in which the most interesting thing that young people can do is riot because there is a lack of substance in what they can do with their lives. Unless some attention is paid to local content and the importance of jobs, that is the sort of society we will head towards. It is beholden on the Minister for Training and Workforce Development to lift his game and to explain why after spending \$1.5 billion over the last three years on training budgets he has achieved so little—that is, fewer than 3 000 additional apprentices and trainees in training. The total increase in participation in training is only 13 000 people. I do not know what the minister does with the money apart from build up his new office and re-badging, but it is an absolute disgrace.

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the House) [10.36 am]:** I listened to the last two speakers with great interest and I am sorry that Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich is sick in the stomach because it just demonstrates —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Well, it is getting worse by the minute.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** — once and for all that the member is now getting to a stage of her political life at which she has to exaggerate everything to try to make a point.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** It is not exaggerating.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** It has actually become a bit of a joke because this issue —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Well, no-one is laughing.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I do not mind one or two interjections, but I make the point, as for the main speaker, that this is a debate in which every speaker has a limited time and it is unfair if that time is eaten up by interjections. Therefore, let us proceed with the speakers on their feet.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** This issue is more about the employment of members of Parliament in the Labor Party than anything else. Every time I hear these speeches being made I say, “This is the preselection speech of the member for so and so.” The Labor Party is just doing the bidding of the union movement, which decides whether party members have a job. That is what this is all about. I have a lot of regard for Hon Jon Ford, but he said that there are 2.5 million people living in Western Australia and that our unemployment rate is four per cent, which means that 100 000 people do not have a job. Of the 2.5 million people, Hon Jon Ford, a significant number are children, babies and people who do not want a job. We cannot just be say that four per cent of the total population represents the total level of unemployment and call that an unemployment rate of 100 000 people. I have to say that is the most ridiculous argument I have ever heard from anyone in this chamber and it comes from someone who generally gets his facts straight. It is the most ridiculous comment I have ever heard and Hon Jon Ford should acknowledge that.

**Hon Jon Ford:** How many thousand then?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** There are unemployed people in Western Australia, but there are not 100 000. The unemployment rate cannot not be divided into the total population to arrive at the total number of people unemployed; it is simply not done that way. That approach is completely disingenuous; the member knows it and it is plainly and frankly wrong.

The employment situation in Western Australia is quite interesting. There are those who are doing very well, thank you, and those who are not doing very well. I give an example of those who are doing very well. I do not know which members on the other side rely on the Maritime Union of Australia for their endorsement. Does anyone want to acknowledge that they are in this place because of that union? Members might remember that just in the last couple of weeks a company in Pilbara called Mermaid Marine Australia has had to endure significant industrial disputation. Indeed, strikes went on for a number of days; I do not know the exact number of days. There was serious disruption because the MUA said that the company’s offer, which I will give the

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figures for, was not good enough. The offer is a salary of \$155 000 a year. On top of that is rental assistance of \$59 000 or a north west allowance that would take the total salary to \$176 000. So the choices available to these employees of Mermaid Marine Australia Ltd, members of the Maritime Union of Australia who went on strike because this was not a good enough offer, were \$155 000 without rental assistance, \$191 000 with rental assistance, and \$176 000 with a north west allowance. These workers, who were members of MUA, said that that was not enough. Hon Jon Ford would have us believe that people in Western Australia are being hard done by, and these are the sorts of salaries which are being offered and which are not acceptable to workers in the north west. Of course, what happens is that the companies are forced to pay, so the companies then pass on the additional cost that they have to endure in respect of the other things that they do and the places where they go to get local content. Therefore, they find somewhere else to save a few dollars to make up for these sorts of conditions that they have to pay for.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich talked about the underclass. Is this the underclass she was talking about—\$190 000-a-year workers in the Pilbara? Are they the people she was talking about? I am told that welders who weld offshore get \$400 000 a year. Are they have the underclass she was talking about? No wonder an enormous amount of pressure is put on companies to try to save some money somewhere so that they can bring these projects in on time and on budget. We are talking about \$43 billion with Chevron for the Gorgon project—\$43 billion. I am afraid to say that some of the Labor Party union, should I say, controllers do not think —

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Get a life. Don't be insulting. You're pathetic.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I have seen members opposite come into this chamber. They queued up to make a speech on —

**Hon Liz Behjat:** Puppet masters; that's what they are.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** They are.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Members of the Labor Party come into this place and make speeches on two issues, and they all queue up. One is issues such as this and the other is trading hours. We can see them queuing up to make sure that Joe knows what they are thinking and that all the other union heavyweights know what they are thinking so that they can present their speeches when they go to their preselection meetings. That is what this is all about. It was suggested that somehow or other 100 000 people in Western Australia are without a job and that they are the new underclass, when there are people who are members of unions that support the Labor Party and who reckon that \$190 000 a year is not enough. I have just got the figures for Mermaid Marine. There were 16 days of industrial disputation for Mermaid Marine in the Pilbara—16 days. I wonder what effect that had on the productivity of that company and its capacity to remain viable in this day and age when there is huge pressure to deliver the goods that are required to get these projects up and running.

Finally, I will say this: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich referred to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development's overseas trip as a holiday. What an outrageous statement to make. That is when I interjected on Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich. She made the point—she was just trying to be smart—that if a minister goes overseas, somehow or other it is a holiday. Did the member ever go overseas as a minister? Of course she did. I actually saw her on one occasion, and I have to say that she was an embarrassment. For the member to come in here and raise those sorts of issues just demonstrates that she has no sensitivity whatsoever on these sorts of matters.

This motion, to which my colleague the Minister for Finance will respond shortly, is just another move by Labor members of the upper house to look after their preselection. It is based on a very bad premise, which was the first sentence uttered by Hon Jon Ford, that somehow or other 100 000 Western Australians do not have a job. That is simply fundamentally wrong. If there is a problem with local content, it is because some members of the workforce are getting such high salaries of the sort I have just mentioned in respect of the MUA that these companies obviously have to find somewhere to save a few dollars to make these projects, which could cost billions of dollars, come to fruition. If members opposite do not want them to come to fruition, they should just say so. If they want to take advantage of these companies at a time of significant demand and seek wages of this magnitude, the ultimate result will be that they will go somewhere else. It is time members opposite started to have a good look around at what companies are now doing around the world. When we take into account what the union colleagues of members opposite want to do and take into account what the federal government wants to do, it is no wonder, with the pressures that are now going on to industry in this country, that these companies are all in Africa, South America and Mongolia looking for opportunities there to develop mining activity and for oil and gas exploration. That is what is happening, and the more pressure Labor puts on those companies, the more they will go to other parts of the world.

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**HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (Agricultural)** [10.45 am]: I rise to speak to this motion of Hon Jon Ford, and I certainly thank him very much for bringing the issues to the attention of the Parliament. He certainly made a number of most relevant statements and comments in his introductory remarks, and I will focus on a few of those for a minute or two. Hon Jon Ford certainly made a significant point when he talked about unemployment levels.

**Hon Norman Moore:** Except he got his facts wrong.

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** Leader of the House, we do not have much time to debate things. However, the fact of the matter is that 4.2 per cent unemployment levels in this state —

**Hon Norman Moore** interjected.

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** Hang on. This is my point: 4.2 per cent is a significant figure in this day and age. Going back 20, 30 or 40 years, a figure of 4.2 per cent would have been astronomical. It is still high. In this day and age, it is regarded that we have full employment when we have unemployment levels in the vicinity of 2.5 per cent, or maybe more; I am not sure. I do not necessarily follow that particular science to the extent that I used to. But with a figure of 4.2 per cent, there must be issues. Right from the outset—I will mention this in a while—a comment on the WAtoday website speaks quite clinically about the issues that we have with unemployment levels in Western Australia. That is why that figure is relevant. I do not know whether the figure is 100 000; I did not do any research on that. But I can assure members that 4.2 per cent is a significant rate of unemployment, even though the unemployment rate in the rest of Australia is probably in excess of 4.5 or 4.6 per cent. I cannot recall the figure that I discussed with Hon Jon Ford this morning.

**Hon Jon Ford:** It was 4.2 per cent.

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** A figure of 4.2 per cent in Western Australia is perhaps the lowest, or close to the lowest, in Australia. That is significant, but we are talking about improving society. That is why we are here. We are not here to beat our chests and say what a fantastic job we are doing. If we cannot reflect on what we are doing or what we are not doing, we are wasting our time, because plenty of people can run around beating their chests and say, "Listen; I'm good. This is what I've done; this is what my government has done." The responsibility of members opposite is to improve upon what happened in the past. If the Labor Party was in government in the past, those opposite should improve upon what we did; and when we make it to government, we will improve upon this government's job. That is what it is all about.

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** You have a great deal of forward vision then.

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** Maybe I do. I am not going to respond, but I can assure members opposite that sooner or later the roles will be reversed. They understand that; I understand that.

Hon Jon Ford also made a few interesting observations about jobs going overseas and not being available here. He also made the point that once those jobs go overseas, the capacity for apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia starts to diminish. Why? Because there is no demand. That is an area that this government needs to address, and address quickly.

Hon Jon Ford also made a point about the provision of cement and concrete from China. I can tell members right now that in the Mid West—Geraldton area, a local former City of Geraldton—Greenough councillor came to see me after seeing a number of heavily laden semitrailers travelling south from Port Hedland carrying concrete sleepers, which caused him much angst. Those concrete sleepers all came via ship to Port Hedland to be trucked to the Mid West. Those are the sorts of issues that any government needs to take on board as significant issues. I speak to people in fabrication and engineering workshops and the like, in Geraldton and in the Mid West. I urge members to understand that from my discussions with those businesses, I can see that that is what sticks in people's craws. Those people might not necessarily be supporters of the state opposition; in fact, most are government supporters who are very concerned. That is why these petitions that we present in Parliament are accepted and signed off by people with quite a degree of concern. I urge the minister to go and visit the local chambers of commerce and industry, go and speak to the journalists and the editors of the newspapers and visit these particular communities. I am sure that members opposite will realise that we have significant issues in this state in places closer to home, such as Kwinana.

**Hon Phil Edman:** Have you been down there?

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** Did the member hear what I just said? I expect members such as Hon Phil Edman to visit their own areas. I have already indicated that I have been out to Geraldton and the Mid West. I have been out to the Wheatbelt where there are lots of small scale fabrication workshops. They are also suffering. Why are they suffering? They are suffering because, as Hon Jon Ford said, a lot of the sorts of jobs that we are talking about are going overseas. All the opposition seeks is that the government change its tack and



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start thinking about the sort of people who are telling us that there are significant issues. I think it was 15 March when we had a protest out the front of Parliament House. Peak industry manufacturing, fabricating and engineering groups stood with us and tried to make the point to the government of the day that we have significant issues, as is reflected in this motion moved by Hon Jon Ford.

Most of the people I speak to are hurting significantly; obviously, they are quite prepared to indicate that. These people also say we must have a commitment to the youth of our communities. Some good apprenticeship and traineeship schemes have been put in place in Geraldton and the Mid West. Many of those kids, if you like, in their late teens or mid-20s, now sell hamburgers, Big Macs or something, or have had to move out of their hometowns and move to Port Hedland to get some sort of labouring work. The future of this country is not about digging holes in the ground. I fully understand that the mining industry has done great things for this country, but we can judge the strength of an economy by its capacity to have a broad cross-section of jobs and industries available to people. If we go down the pathway of relying solely on resource projects, this country is doomed. We need value adding. We need these particular people to work in Western Australia on local projects. These are Western Australia's resources. They do not belong anywhere else in the world. Companies should be required to put those sorts of issues in place and make sure that Western Australians as a whole benefit. I just listened to the Leader of the House lambast Labor over its links to the union movement. Members opposite should understand that if it were not for the union movement, they more than likely would not be where they are. The labour movement, which has developed over the last 300 or so years, underpins the very idea of some sort of egalitarian society.

**Hon Linda Savage** interjected.

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** Exactly; as Hon Linda Savage says, the role of women in society in this day and age can largely be attributed to the labour movement. I am rapidly running out of time. However, I want to quote from this article on WAtoday that I alluded to earlier. The article is dated 4 March and contains a few interesting observations. Please bear with me; I just want to make a few remarks. The article starts off stating —

Australia's resource giants are taking measures to increase the amount of local work on major projects, West Australian Premier Colin Barnett says.

Unions have accused oil and gas giant ... of sending offshore three quarters of the \$10 billion worth ... on its Gorgon liquefied natural gas development it said would be done by Australian companies.

The response —

... Gorgon project ... manager Colin Beckett says about \$9 billion of that work has been contracted out to WA companies.

Here is the crux of the issue as far as we are concerned —

UnionsWA Secretary Simone McGurk said that most of the work contracted out to Australian companies was for earth works, site preparation, catering and waste removal.

My contention is that we need to get involved in skilled jobs for local people; that sort of work should be done here. We should not necessarily do away with those sorts of jobs mentioned in the article, but that is the focus of the jobs that Chevron provided.

[Member's time expired.]

**Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM:** I had better sit down.

**The PRESIDENT:** Sorry, you have expired. Well, you have not expired, but your time has expired!

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Please, not yet!

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Finance)** [10.56 am]: I agree that Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm's time has expired, but he is nowhere near being past his use-by date!

The member's advocacy for Western Australian local interests is undoubted and it should not be doubted. I am sure that everyone in this house associates themselves with the sentiment that we need to enhance opportunities for Western Australians, whether in personal or business development, to guarantee the future for Australia and for Western Australians and their families now and into the foreseeable future. That sentiment is not in doubt. That is something that we all agree on. I can assure the honourable member that this government also sees that as one of its fundamental purposes. It should not be necessary to rise to repeat such things, which are self-evident to all of us here and views held by us all. However, this motion is before us and I am wondering: why do we have it? This is Groundhog Day; we have had this matter raised for debate several times. I was looking for some further information to be introduced by the mover, but I did not see a lot of it.

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This debate is a rerun of an earlier debate that was held yesterday in the other place. This debate relies on a rerun of a press release from 4 March put out by UnionsWA—the preselection committee of many members opposite. There was not a lot of new information, if any, in the debate. It seems that the ALP is still wedded to this view that it can find some political legs in the tired arguments that it has been producing over the last few months and try to flog up its dead Skilled Local Jobs Bill, which we have debated before, because it seems that the only thing that the ALP has to offer this debate is a resort again to red tape that would harm the economy and Western Australia's international standing. If that is all members opposite have got to offer, and apparently it is, then they do not really have anything.

Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm is right to say that people look to government for leadership on this and other issues. This government has been working to provide that leadership. We have recognised the changed circumstances that the massive resource projects of the day present for local participation of many of our local industries. We have been working hard to engage with local producers, contractors, fabricators and manufacturers to make sure that we understand the nature of this new economy and that we can work as a government to make sure that all Western Australian interests can participate. An easy message to sell publicly is that Western Australians should benefit from and be involved in the positive developments that are happening in this state. Nobody would disagree with that sentiment. Will the opposition please stop pretending that this government does not recognise Western Australia's interests?

Recently, working in concert with others in government, I produced a number of papers aimed at furthering the cause of local content in Western Australia. In May, I tabled in this place a local content report, which for the first time, probably ever, attempted to give members a snapshot of the status of local industry participation in Western Australia to help inform the debate and to make sure that members might have some chance of knowing what it is that they are talking about. I have publicly undertaken to produce and deliver further reports of this nature into the status of local content so that the body of information that Hon Jon Ford demands will be available. It has not been done before and we are doing it. Similarly, a few weeks ago, I gathered together a large representative group of local industry and related interests, including union representatives I might add, to present the consolidated Western Australian government approach to local industry participation in Western Australia. I did that so that people could know not only what it is we are doing, but how they could participate. I believe a document summarising the 10 points of activity was circulated to all members. The reaction from the extended sector was very, very positive on that day. The meeting held at Henderson was attended by hundreds of people and was very well received. In the flow on from that, numerous participants contacted me and I have also written a number of letters to industry inviting the cooperative dialogue that is necessary to source the information the state needs to formulate and deliver policy that will maximise local industry participation. I was very encouraged to receive feedback, from people previously involved, in support of the rally and the targeting of the marginal seats, which was advertised in the 4 March media release from Unions WA that Hon Jon Ford, the mover of the motion, relied on when making his remarks. The Australian Steel Institute wrote to my office as recently, I think, as last week, to advise that the information it had received was very reassuring and put to rest any lingering concerns about the direction being taken by the department and the state government. Participants are recognising that this government is doing the things that are necessary to assert local industry requirements in the new globalised economy, which is visiting us through so many major resource developments.

I return to Henderson and the presentations that I previously referred to. The invites had already gone out and the member for Willagee, the opposition spokesperson for local content, presumably alerted to the fact by the union people who had been invited to the event, promptly rang up and asked if he could come. My response was, "Absolutely! Sure! If they want to come—let 'em!" I recall that a few hundred people were there on the day. The crowd was very big and very positive. There was quite a buzz around the place. Not only did Mr Tinley turn up, but Mr Logan, the member for Cockburn, and the member for Rockingham also showed up unannounced. They gathered by the door and were so interested in what was going on that when they saw all the people who were there to support the government they turned around and went away without listening to the presentation. That is how dinkum the ALP is. Members can go to the trouble of coming up from Rockingham or going down from Willagee, but when they get there they think, "Oh, heck! There's not much mileage in this for us." And so off they go again. That shows how dinkum they are.

Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm featured in the Geraldton local press the other day—admittedly, it was a paid advertisement, but the member has to get his publicity somewhere!—in an ad about local jobs and WA resource projects in which he claimed that Colin Barnett must stand up for local businesses and skilled workers in Geraldton and the Mid West. The good news is: we are! The ad also claims that the Barnett government is sending jobs offshore. I do not know which jobs we have sent offshore. I think the member was taking a bit of licence there! Nonetheless, in the interest of —

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm** interjected.

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**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** It just goes to show that it is all about political hyperbole rather than substance! Nonetheless, if the member wants to pay his money to advertise in public he can do that.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** You need to go and speak to those people.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** The member can do that if he so wishes. I advise the honourable member that the government is more than happy to talk to people. That is why we are doing it. That is why we talk to everyone. If those people the member is referring to want to talk to us, they are more than welcome to do so.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** You'd better head up to the Mid West.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** So much for this advert, which I think is about six months too late and shows us someone who is trying to catch up with the argument. According to my notes, the advert was authorised by Matt Benson, not of Parliament House, Perth or where I think he lives or has his office, but rather Matt Benson of 1139 Hay Street, East Perth. Who lives at 1139 Hay Street, East Perth?

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Have a look at the bottom of —

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Is that your residence?

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Have a look at the bottom of the advert. You can't even read it. It surely says West Perth.

**Hon Kate Doust:** It is his electorate office.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Is 1139 Hay Street, West —

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Ah! West Perth!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** — Perth your electorate office?

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** That is my electorate office, minister.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I beg your pardon.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Thank you very much! Minister, cut to the chase, because we are on the edge of our seats over here.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Okay. Here is our member for Geraldton with his office in West Perth.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Oh come on! Make it relevant! That is my electorate office!

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Brian Ellis):** Order, members!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I will say now that the honourable member was making references to Kwinana, and Hon Phil Edman will tell him a few things in just a moment. However, if the member wants to come down to see what is being said in Kwinana —

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** You check *Hansard* to see what I said.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** — come down and check. Because, Mr Deputy President the —

Several members interjected.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** You go and check what I said in *Hansard*.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** Order, members!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** The Parliament is not going to be informed accurately by this opposition; it is incapable of doing it.

**Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm:** Go and check *Hansard*.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** However, if people like the member for Rockingham and others had come down to Kwinana—I will conclude with this—and bothered to come in to listen to what the government is doing, I would have been able to tell them in part that our interest as a government is long term. In the past, government and project proponents did not need to meet regularly to discuss local content. We have identified the need now. It is no longer the case. Circumstances have changed and the state government will now establish and maintain ongoing dialogue with strategic project proponents on local content. That is something that this government is doing that did not happen in the past. Furthermore, proponents will be engaged and as part of this process—indeed, I am writing to them regularly—will be encouraged to provide the unvarnished truth on supplier standing so that we can clearly understand where Western Australian industry is potentially competitive and where

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aspirations to supply are unrealistic. We will find the hard information, Hon Jon Ford, that we need to make our decisions, but we will be doing it in a professional way, aiming to get the results that we all aspire to.

**Hon Adele Farina:** Are you going to make it public?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** To respond to Hon Adele Farina's interjection: I have already indicated that I am looking forward to providing further local content reports, as with the first one I have already provided to this Parliament and to the general public, to help inform future debate and to give confidence that Western Australian interests are being protected. The information that we are gathering now will allow us to plan and act to support local industry more effectively so that we will deliver the sort of outcomes that Western Australians want. We will work with proponents to facilitate competitive suppliers' entrance into global marketing arrangements.

I am disappointed, in one sense, that the contributions in the debate today have not produced anything from the movers of the motion that add to the debate; it shows they are stuck in a time warp. But it does give an opportunity for this government to update the house that it is moving forward and is delivering an environment in which Western Australian enterprise can thrive into the future.

**HON PHIL EDMAN (South Metropolitan)** [11.10 am]: I have to agree with Hon Simon O'Brien that it is a bit like Groundhog Day. This issue was brought up in Parliament on 24 February. I spoke on it then and I am happy to speak again today. On 8 February I had the pleasure of accompanying the Premier and Hon Simon O'Brien to talk with members of the Australian Steel Institute. We also met with Pacific Industrial Company, United Industries WA Pty Ltd and Civmec Construction and Engineering, and we visited the Fremantle Steel Fabrication Co (WA) Pty Ltd factory. Since then a lot has been happening with local content, taking into account that Gorgon is in construction, and Oakajee and the Browse LNG project have not started yet. There are approximately \$176 billion worth of projects, and we have only just scratched the surface. Leaving that aside, since Hon Simon O'Brien and Premier Barnett were down in the Kwinana area, on 23 May 2011 AusGroup won a \$50 million contract for pipes for the Gorgon project and on 29 June 2011 it won another \$12 million contract for fabrication and testing; on 5 July 2011 Roy Hill Holdings won a \$40 million contract to go to WA companies; on 13 July 2011 Civmec won a contract for \$44 million; and on 14 July Chevron Australia awarded a \$2 billion to a WA joint venture, CB&I Kentz JV, which is an electronics projects. That is in a little over a month. I have to say well done to the Minister for Commerce and the Premier for encouraging that work to come into the electorate and for supporting local content.

Further to that, I spoke with James England, the state manager of the Australian Steel Institute. He said that the work is rolling in and he said that the Premier and Minister O'Brien are doing a great job. Obviously, he says that a lot more needs to be done, but he did not run down the government. I do not know how many members opposite, including Hon Kate Doust, have been to visit these steel fabricators in Kwinana, where 90 per cent of them are located. I recently spoke to Civmec's chief executive officer, Jim Fitzgerald. When the Premier, Hon Simon O'Brien and I went to visit that factory, things were bad; it was at three per cent capacity. I have to admit that my jaw did drop. Now it is at 50 per cent capacity. When I visited them on 8 February it only had one apprentice.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** Fifty per cent, great!

**Hon PHIL EDMAN:** It is increasing. Let us talk about apprentices. Civmec now has eight apprentices, an increase from one, and they will be employing two apprentices each month. I asked Jim how long that would go on. He said that it would go on forever. They now have 160 boilermakers and they are going to advertise for more in September. That is what he is saying to me. Members opposite should ring him up and go and visit! I have also spoken to United Industries, another business that the three of us visited. Its capacity is now up to 60 per cent, when it was at 20 per cent; and the company has just brought on four new apprentices and is now looking at taking on some more. I spoke with Fremantle Steel Fabrication's Vince D'Amato—a lovely bloke. He went from 20 per cent capacity when we met with him in February to 50 per cent capacity; and he has taken on 12 new apprentices and is looking for more. I have to say that Minister Collier would have to be pleased to hear what is going on with apprentices.

What about some of our smaller firms, some of the real micro-businesses in the electorate? There is one called AMD Engineering Australia Pty Ltd in Bibra Lake, which employs only five people. They are sustaining their current workload. They have only ever employed five people, but now they are taking on a new apprentice. That is the situation even with the very small companies. Doina Engineering Construction has a workshop based in Kwinana. They told me this morning that they are working at full capacity. At present they have 50 to 60 staff employed in the workshop and have just taken on three apprentices. They are just some of the people to whom I have spoken in the last week. I dare say there is more to be done, but there is still a lot more work that is going to be done up north.

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One very interesting gentleman I spoke to was Kevin Hammer from GF Engineering who said that he was really puzzled at the union push for a wage rise in the current climate. He said that he was using labour hire firms and was finding it hard to get good workers because they have been dragged away to the north—not overseas.

I remember back on 24 February when I said that, as a business proprietor, which I have been for 21 years, I had never before seen the unions and business proprietors hold hands and march to the steps of Parliament House to lobby government. I said a number of times that I would have to take a photo of that.

**Hon Kate Doust:** They have done it a number of times. Where have you been?

**Hon PHIL EDMAN:** Don't worry, Hon Kate Doust, I remember you! The member accused me of being a Neanderthal in relation to unions. Is it not amazing that just this week, the unions are pushing for a pay rise. An article in the *Australian Financial Review* on 10 August reads —

The union behind a campaign to win more work for Western Australia's engineering workshops has been accused of scoring an own goal by demanding big pay rises from the same companies it sought to help.

The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union is seeking pay increases of at least 15 per cent over the next three years from the state's manufacturing companies.

If the business proprietors were holding hands with the unions, I can tell Hon Kate Doust right now that I guess they will be getting a divorce. That relationship must be completely over. From what Kevin Hammer from GF Engineering has just said, I guess he is puzzled. That sums it up.

Chris Oughton, the director of the Kwinana Industries Council—just so I get a cross-reference with what is happening with local content—sent me an email which reads —

Fabrication workshops and engineering construction and maintenance appear to be experiencing greater activity ... Skill shortages remain in certain areas due to the demand for skilled workers generated by the expansion in the resources sector ... Countering the work being done to achieve increased local content is the very high wage expectations of workers, and this will continue to be a driver for sending fabrication work offshore, thus dampening but not eliminating skill shortage issues.

What we are coming to, now that we all have all got some work, is dealing with the skills shortage. However, it is good to know that these companies are taking on apprentices, and as an apprentice myself once I think that is fantastic.

We are doing the best that we possibly can. It is all right to come into this house and bring on the same debate as that on 24 February, but I have given the facts and some figures, just from some local companies, and I encourage members on the other side, especially those from the South Metropolitan Region who have so much to say, to take a drive and visit these local steel fabrication firms, because they are telling me that they have not had any members opposite down there. I thought that was amazing, especially as it is their electorate I would have thought they would be more interested in local content and would visit the business proprietors and hear it from them. Our government is doing a fantastic job on local content. I believe that the minister, Hon Simon O'Brien, as well as Premier Barnett are doing the best they possibly can, and I congratulate them on their effort.

**HON ADELE FARINA (South West)** [11.19 am]: Let us recall exactly what this government pledged to the people of Western Australia at the last election. It pledged that if it were elected to government it would be open, transparent and accountable to the people of Western Australia. At every single opportunity the government has been asked to be held to account, it has failed to deliver the information; whether it is through requests in this Parliament or through the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. At every opportunity that this government has had to be open, transparent and accountable, it has failed. That pledge was made by every single member sitting opposite. They pledged to the Australian people; they gave their word that, if elected, they would be transparent in government, they would provide the public with information, and they would be held to account. We have heard from Hon Jon Ford that his request for documents under the Freedom of Information Act has been rejected. We have heard public comments by the Leader of the Opposition in the other place that requests in the other place to access this information—in fact, requests in this house to access this information—have failed to deliver these reports. The state agreement act actually requires the companies to provide the information on local content. It also requires the companies to report to government when the company considers it necessary to find work overseas because it cannot find it in WA.

If this were an open and transparent government, it would provide that information. The claim that this information is commercial-in-confidence is baseless. There is absolutely no basis for it at all. Furthermore, the Auditor General Act provides when ministers come into this place and refuse to provide information that has

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been requested, they are required to notify the Auditor General so that the Auditor General can make an assessment about whether the claim of commercial-in-confidence has some basis. The Premier has refused to implement that aspect of the Auditor General Act. He does not believe he is required to be held to account when he says to the Parliament, "Well, this information is commercial-in-confidence." Hon Norman Moore argues that it is commercial-in-confidence, but produces no evidence to support that. If this were an open, transparent and accountable government, it would observe the laws of this state, which this Parliament enacted and which they as members of this place enacted, and follow through with its obligations under the law.

This government has gone to the people of Western Australia and said, "We will be open, transparent and accountable," and then refused to do so. It claims that the reason that it cannot provide the information is that it is commercial-in-confidence. It provides no justification for that and then does not comply with the law that requires it to notify the Auditor General that it has provided that information.

**Hon Simon O'Brien** interjected.

**Hon ADELE FARINA:** I think that at end of the day, at the next election the government will be judged by the people of Western Australia. I find it also interesting —

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Hon KATE DOUST:** The minister on the other side has alleged that Hon Adele Farina is telling lies. He has said that twice. That is incorrect and it is a dreadful and unparliamentary comment to make. I ask that he withdraw it.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Brian Ellis):** I understand that that was an unparliamentary comment, and I would ask the minister to withdraw it.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I do withdraw it. I should have said that the member is mistaken.

*Debate Resumed*

**Hon ADELE FARINA:** It is interesting that the honourable member should call me a liar when he has stood in this place and said that three members of the opposition showed up at a public meeting but did not actually attend the public meeting when that is in fact incorrect. I suggest the minister check that information that has been provided and then come back to this place and provide an apology.

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** We saw them go!

**Hon ADELE FARINA:** I have only got a minute to go.

The government has come to this place to debate this motion and has not provided one skerrick of information about what is the local content of these projects. It has not addressed at all the issue that is before this Parliament. The only member who has gotten close is Hon Phil Edman, who stood and said, "Well, the fabrication workshops that I have attended are working at 50 and 60 per cent capacity." I do not see that as anything to be congratulated or celebrated. If they were working at 100 per cent, that would be something to be celebrated and noted, but at 50 and 60 per cent, it clearly shows that there is still an issue. The problem is that we do not have any capacity to hold the government to account on whether that 50 or 60 per cent is a reasonable figure, because it will not provide the information to this place.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to temporary orders.