

STATE ECONOMY — INDUSTRY SENTIMENT

136. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to responsible financial management and its cautious approach to the risks of a global recession.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how Western Australia's strong economic and budgetary position has been received by industry groups?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house on the importance of sustained fiscal responsibility?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) I was pleased to see that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia released its biannual report on the Western Australian economy the other day. It was compelling reading because once again it showed how well Western Australia is doing and it vindicated the efforts of this government to diversify, strengthen and attract investment into Western Australia.

The chief economist, Aaron Morey, said —

... Western Australia's economic fundamentals remain as solid as ever.

"Our domestic economy is now 12 per cent bigger than it was pre-COVID ...

...

"Business investment growth of 4 per cent this financial year will underwrite the economy ...

"It comes in the form of large projects ...

And so on. It indicated a very glowing assessment of the Western Australian economy from our good friends at the CCIWA. That also follows on from ratings agencies S&P Global and Moody's glowingly appraising the state's economic management. CommSec said that Western Australia continues to lead on relative economic growth. The Deloitte Access Economics assessment shows that housing in Perth is more affordable and wages are better than anywhere else in Australia. They are all glowing endorsements of the government's economic management and the fact that we got the state back on track, certainly in a financial sense.

The CCI put out various statements about the last government in 2016. Back then, its statement about the last Liberal–National government was that the then government's spending was unsustainable in creating historically high levels of debt. We went from that assessment by the CCI to the assessment that we have received. Obviously, Western Australia now is the strongest state in Australia, both economically and fiscally.

I was also pleased to see that when federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers was asked about the GST arrangements when he was in WA the other day, he said —

"This is a deal that we are committed to ...

He also said —

"What's not under consideration, what's not up for review, is the GST floor here in Western Australia," ... "We've said that on countless occasions.

That is what the federal Treasurer said. The outlook is rosy. We just need to stay the course and make sure that Western Australia continues to lead the nation, both economically and fiscally. Under this government, that is what will happen.