

SERVICES — REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Statement

HON ROBIN SCOTT (Mining and Pastoral) [5.45 pm]: I would like to continue the remarks I made in my member's statement last night. I will temper my remarks, Madam President, so that I do not have to experience the pouting and the squealing that I did last night.

The PRESIDENT: That's no way to talk about the Presiding Officer, member!

Hon ROBIN SCOTT: I started by speaking about optimism. That optimism is due to the hard work, resilience and perseverance of the people in the regions, which includes the Kimberley, the Pilbara, North West Central and the goldfields. The future of the regions is very, very fragile. Since the McGowan government will not support the regions, we need to make sure that industry is given certainty so that it can continue to do the heavy lifting. That means that the government cannot raise royalty rates for our resources. It tried that a few years ago with the gold industry. Fortunately, my party, the One Nation party, was successful in stopping it. I hope that any future plans for royalty rate hikes have been put on the backburner because that is where they should stay. I want the government to know that I look forward to being elected to the forty-first Parliament. I will be keeping a close on watch on royalty rates, and I am sure the industry will be, too. The people of the regions can no longer afford the government using their royalties as an ATM because once that piggy bank is empty, it will be empty for good.

I conclude by saying that I am here to help the government. I am here to keep it posted about what is needed in the regions—not what the people want but what they need. Everybody wants a big house, a fancy car and a yacht with a helipad on it but that is not what they need. That is what I will be pushing for. For the last three and a half years, that is what I have been doing every day while I have been doing my job. It is the least I can do for the people of the Mining and Pastoral Region who have been let down by this government time and again.