

PUBLIC SECTOR NET DEBT

**638. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Treasurer:**

- (1) What was the Western Australian total public sector net debt on 11 March 2017?
- (2) What was the Western Australian total public sector net debt on 30 June 2017?
- (3) What is the 2023–24 state budget projection for the Western Australian total public sector net debt at 30 June 2027?
- (4) Does the current Treasurer agree with the last two Premiers that forward estimates are only guesses that are unlikely to eventuate, or does she hold a different view; and, if so, what is that view?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Treasurer.

- (1)–(4) The WA Labor government inherited a budget with net debt on track to reach \$43.7 billion. Net debt is forecast to fall to \$27.9 billion by the end of this financial year, the fourth consecutive annual decline in net debt and almost \$16 billion lower than projected under the previous Liberal–National government. In contrast, the previous Liberal–National government did not reduce net debt at any point during its term.