

MINING INDUSTRY

Statement

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [9.47 pm]: I rise tonight to speak about how past and present Western Australian state governments have failed the people of Western Australia. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and, indeed, pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. Also, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the Pilbara, the Kimberley and the lands across northern WA, whose country and waters are host to the vast majority of oil and gas, and mineral extraction industries, industries that should be funding a bright and prosperous future for all Western Australians. I begin with a quote from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, which, in its 2002 annual report, stated —

Sadly, mining is not sustainable, and deep down, every miner, like every grade three child, knows that it isn't ... Mining is an extractive industry, it's as simple as that. Dig it up and it's gone for good. To pretend otherwise, and to argue that other uses can be found for the minesite after the ore has been worked out is fatuous.

When the oil and gas and minerals are finally extracted, what will we be left with? We will be left with rehabilitation costs that we cannot afford due to the lack of bonds and greenhouse gas emission levels that are the second highest globally per capita. Certainly, we have not invested, as Norway has done, in the future of our great state. We have no future fund and we actually have no future plan.

Recently, I posted some disturbing information on Facebook. Australia and Qatar have exported 77 million tonnes and 74 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas respectively in 2018. Australia received \$600 million in revenue, whereas Qatar, with virtually the same amount of product, received \$26.6 billion. That is over 4 000 per cent more for virtually the same amount of product.

On top of this, it has been identified that liquefied natural gas and its downstream processing in Western Australia is dramatically increasing national emission levels. This is not counting the emissions from unconventional gas extraction or fracking. The McGowan government's recent approval of fracking in WA will undoubtedly contribute to this rise in greenhouse gas emissions, destroying our chances of abating climate change and passing on a healthy planet to future generations. I wonder what percentage of revenue from this abominable toxic practice the people of WA will receive. Is there really an amount that can compensate for the jeopardising of our food, water, land and climate?

To add insult to injury, there are four new projects planned for the Burrup, which is an area close to my heart. The first two proposals, although they are not explicitly part of the extractive industry—Perdaman's urea chemical plant and Wesfarmers' methanol plant—will still have a marked effect on the area, specifically the need for more gas to be extracted to meet energy requirements and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The second two proposals are from Woodside. The company plans to expand its gas developments on the Burrup Pluto hub and the North West Shelf joint venture site, near Withnell Bay. Both these proposed expansions will have immense and direct impacts on the surrounding area, including the delicate and ancient rock art, whilst incrementally increasing WA's CO₂-equivalent emissions. We cannot keep doing this, especially since we do not actually understand the aggregate effects. In the case of the Burrup Peninsula and surrounding areas, there is no cumulative airshed analysis, whereas there is one in Kwinana. We do not know how much emission levels will increase, we do not know the extent of the effect on our climate and we certainly do not know what the repercussions will be on the ancient rock art in the area. We already know that the pH level of the rock is 4.5. That is roughly equivalent to somewhere between beer and lemon juice!

What we are getting from siphoning and exporting our limited resources is the hastening of climate change and the destruction of Indigenous art that is tens of thousands of years old. We have been had! The people of Western Australia and the nation deserve a better deal. Instead of receiving our rightful revenue to invest in the future of the state, the Western Australian state government is destroying our unique and irreplaceable environment for a pittance. We have never got what we deserve—that is, due income from our finite oil, gas and mineral resources. These resources and revenues belong to the people of Western Australia, not lining the pockets of major parties and their mates.