

ALCOA PINJARRA ALUMINA REFINERY

272. Mr M.J. COWPER to the Minister for State Development:

The minister recently visited Alcoa's Pinjarra alumina refinery, which is the biggest in the world. Can the minister please advise the house on the contribution of Alcoa and the alumina industry to the state of Western Australia?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for the question. Alcoa has been around Western Australia for some 53 years, as the member for Murray–Wellington knows, and it has been a great contributor to WA's economy; indeed, thousands of jobs have been created over those 53 years by Alcoa. I had the good fortune to visit the Pinjarra refinery, one of the largest refineries in the world, some weeks ago when I was down in the member's electorate. The Pinjarra refinery produces 4.5 million tonnes per annum of alumina, and if we combine Alcoa's other operations at Kwinana and Wagerup, it produces a total of nine million tonnes per annum of alumina, which is about eight per cent of the world's total production. If we throw in the South32's Worsley refinery in Western Australia, the total production of alumina out of Western Australia is about 14 million tonnes per annum, which is about 12 per cent of the global production of alumina. The bauxite for the sourcing of these three refineries comes from two sources in the Darling Range—Huntly and Willowdale. I visited the Huntly site a couple of years ago. Each year, 34 million tonnes of bauxite is sourced from these sites.

Alcoa currently employs 3 900 employees with a payroll of \$636 million per annum, and 2 000 of its employees live in the electorates of the members for Murray–Wellington, Mandurah and Dawesville. Each year Alcoa spends about \$1.4 billion on operations and capital, which represents huge capital and operations expenditure in Western Australia. The industry as a whole, when we throw in Worsley as well, employs 7 200 people in Western Australia, which is terrific. The industry generates \$78 million in royalties.

Alcoa is also very strong in community services and it gives back to the community, as everyone knows. The industry supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects and has employed lots of graduates from the University of Western Australia, including one graduate, Alan Cransberg, who went on to become the managing director of Alcoa's Australian operations, and who recently retired from that area. Alcoa also supports *Sculpture by the Sea* in the member for Cottesloe's electorate, which is another very important community project.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you!

Mr W.R. MARMION: I will wind up, Mr Speaker. One of the important things that Alcoa does is to support the state government's domestic gas policy. It is the largest user of gas in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr B.S. Wyatt: What are you doing with that hand?

Mr W.R. MARMION: I will keep my hand down!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Question time is going to finish at quarter to three. I was hoping to get another question in. I did not want to stop.

Mr W.R. MARMION: I have just one more point, Mr Speaker. I was trying to say that Alcoa supports our shale and tight gas industry and, indeed, it invests in that area. It is very disappointing that members opposite do not support an industry that could provide thousands of jobs and a lot of economic benefits to the state of Western Australia.