

GOLD ROYALTIES

390. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. I still did not hear in the Premier's answer whether he will rule out increasing the gold royalty rate and whether he stands by —

Mr D.J. Kelly: You're not listening.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: He did not say it. Does the Premier stand by his comments that increasing gold royalties was akin to a mining tax and that the tax will mean mines will close and jobs will be lost?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Maybe the Leader of the National Party should adopt the strategy she used yesterday of asking herself questions! Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Then she can answer the question to her own satisfaction and she will be very happy when she goes home at night and she can feel like she did a good job!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I note —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for North West Central for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, the budget will come down tomorrow. I note that the price of gold is now at \$1 600 an ounce and I also note that the gold royalty in the eastern states is significantly higher than in Western Australia.