

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

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

I have a supplementary question. There were lots of words there. I am not sure I heard, “Yes, we will increase the value of the Country Age Pension Fuel Card” or when, if that was the case.

The SPEAKER: Just the question.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Will the Premier request that the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport review the decision of the government to flatline the Country Age Pension Fuel Card value for six years and deliver a much-needed boost at the upcoming midyear review?

A government member: What did you do?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We put it up and linked it to indexation—that is what we did!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The member draws the attention to the other side of the house when it comes to the cost of living and helping people deal with such important expenses such as electricity bills. Under her government, the previous government put up electricity bills by over 97 per cent. The former government put up the fees for some TAFE courses by as much as 500 per cent.

Dr A.D. Buti: The former Premier said, “Get a blanket if you’re cold if you’re an old person.” That’s what he said, the former Premier.

Mr R.H. COOK: I think the former Premier said if people could not afford to run their air conditioner, they should wait for the Fremantle doctor to come in. We all know how good that is for those people who live in Kalgoorlie! We will not be lectured by those opposite when it comes to assisting people in Western Australia with the cost of living. We will continue to make sure that we put in place measures that cushion the blows and make sure that we can assist those who are doing it tough. There is a reason we can do that. It is because we have looked after the state’s finances, got the budget and spending under control, and now we are in a position to invest. We are in a position to invest and help those who are dealing with the cost of living and help those who are doing it tough the most.