

PUBLIC SECTOR — INVOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

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

I have a supplementary question. I am still not clear whether the Premier is ruling out involuntary redundancies, because he has between now and March to get rid of 3 000 people. If the Premier does not meet this target, will he just write off these savings measures?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It is not our plan to undertake any of those activities, and I certainly would be extremely reluctant to.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will read out again for the benefit of the National Party the policy that we took to the state election —

- Revamp the process for involuntary severances and ensure that they are only applied in very limited circumstances that are clearly defined.

Clearly, Mr Speaker, we are on the side of an effective, service-oriented, well supported public sector and one of the things that would help us do that is if the National and Liberal Parties were to support a very reasonable revenue measure that will ensure the gold industry pays its fair share. Currently, the actions of the Liberal and National Parties are grossly irresponsible on that issue. They are responding to a few greedy people in the gold sector. The measure we put in place —

Mr D.C. Nalder: What did you promise?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The price is currently \$1 700, my friend. The measure we put in place protects all those marginal producers. It just ensures that the taxpayers of Western Australia receive their fair share. Obviously, we are —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you have asked a question. It might not be the answer you want, but it is the answer you are getting.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I have answered the question.