

LIBERAL PARTY ELECTION COMMITMENTS — COSTINGS

**189. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's comments on radio this morning when he said —

I've never lied to the public in 25 years of politics.

Given that every promise the Premier made during the 2013 state election campaign was sold as “fully funded and fully costed”—the campaign included a Liberal television advertisement that had the voiceover of the Premier promoting the promised Metro Area Express light rail project—how can the Premier seriously argue that “fully funded and fully costed” was just a campaign slogan?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

It clearly was a campaign slogan. It is used in advertising frequently. Campaigning is about media coverage.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Do members opposite want an answer or not? It was a campaign slogan.

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** It was a lie!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am fine with that, Mr Speaker. The Liberal Party made 58 commitments during the election campaign. About a year ago, I reported publicly that at the time we had delivered 42 of those commitments. We will update the electorate —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the member to withdraw that comment.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not want members to be liberal when using the term “lied”. Let us try to keep this on track.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The Liberal Party made 58 substantial commitments during the last election campaign and more than a year ago I announced that we had delivered 42 of those commitments. We will continue to deliver those.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** You included Midland hospital and university in that.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Yes, and that is a very important commitment. I remind members that we are at the halfway point of a four-year term. We are well in front. We have delivered 42 of the 58 commitments. We have another two years to go and we will continue to deliver on those commitments. If we do not get 58 out of 58, I am accountable for that, but that will be for the electorate to judge. One could have a semantic argument about this, but when a person says something that is blatantly false and they know that it is false, that is a lie. I have never done that in my public life.