

GOLD ROYALTIES

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

I refer to the Premier's comments as Leader of the Opposition in 2014 that increasing gold royalties was akin to a mining tax and that the tax would mean mines would close and jobs would be lost.

- (1) Will the Premier today rule out increasing the gold royalty rate in tomorrow's budget?
- (2) Does the Premier still consider an increase in royalties to be a new mining tax?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The budget will be handed down tomorrow. As is traditional, everything will be revealed in the budget when it is handed down. That is the traditional approach. I remember sitting on the opposite side and hearing Troy Buswell, Christian Porter, the member for Riverton, the member for Cottesloe and were there any other Treasurers?

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There was a number over eight and a half years; there were seven over eight and a half years. I cannot remember who the other ones were but I do remember they indicated exactly the same in the lead-up to the budget.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I want to make one point —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I want to make one point. In the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement* that was issued by the former government, debt in 2016–17 hit \$33.2 billion and was projected to climb above \$41 billion over the forward estimates—the former government's forward estimates. On top of that, we have —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr M. McGOWAN: On top of that, we have suffered a decline in revenue of \$5 billion since the issuing of the —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Since the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*, we have suffered a decline in revenue in excess of \$5 billion. That is the reality of what we face. Obviously, the budget will come down tomorrow. As we have said on a number of occasions, we have to share the burden of repairing the former government's legacy across the community and we would hope the Liberals and Nationals would accept some responsibility for what they did.