

BHP — UNPAID ROYALTIES

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

I refer to the dispute over unpaid royalties owed to the people of Western Australia between the state government and BHP.

- (1) Why has the Premier failed to secure this \$300-plus million, despite telling ABC radio on 12 February that he is “Pretty hard about the fact that they owe us some money.”
- (2) Has the Premier or other ministers in his government threatened to withhold any approvals related to BHP until the money owed is recovered?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) We will continue to work towards a resolution on that matter. The State Solicitor, I and other people in my office are engaged in that conversation with BHP. I look forward to an amicable resolution to that issue, hopefully, in the coming weeks or months. Obviously, BHP employs directly around 13 000 Western Australians, another 12 000 or 13 000 contractors and a range of people indirectly, so we want to continue to have a good relationship with BHP. To the best of my knowledge, no-one has threatened any approvals.