

FRASER INSTITUTE - SURVEY OF MINING COMPANIES

**66. Mr R.C. KUCERA to the Minister for Resources:**

I refer to recent media reports about the Fraser Institute annual survey of mining companies. Can the minister advise the house of the findings of that survey?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

I thank the member for Yokine for his question. The Fraser Institute report is released every year, but when reports such as this are released we often find that particular groups, and sometimes the media, selectively quote from them in order to justify their own arguments. Unfortunately, we have seen media reports in which some people, having selectively quoted from the report of the Fraser Institute, suggest that Western Australia is not performing well in the area of mining and mining approvals. Unfortunately, as you well know, Mr Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. Members will find that in all the areas referred to in the Fraser report, WA has performed exceptionally well by both Australian and global standards in our jurisdictional responses to mining applications, approvals and production. It has been a fantastic result.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** What did the report say?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Members should look at the evidence that was released yesterday. They should not quote selectively from the report. Sales of minerals in Western Australia were \$48.4 billion, an absolute record. You, Mr Speaker, can be thanked for the work you have done in contributing to that achievement. It is an amazing result.

**Mr T. Buswell:** What are you talking about, you goose? It was a report on the approvals process.

*Point of Order*

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I think the member for Vasse knows that comment he made about the minister was unparliamentary. He should withdraw it.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not know if it is unparliamentary other than that members should refer to each other by their position and name in this place. It does not help standards when members are referred to by names such as the member for Vasse used, but I do not think it is unparliamentary; it is just silly.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will remember that it is not unparliamentary when I come to the member for Vasse.

I want to refer to this exceptional result for Western Australia, which everybody should acknowledge. They should look at the sales of the individual industries involved. I am referring to only 2006. There was a 24.3 per cent increase in alumina sales; a 29 per cent increase in iron ore sales; a 60 per cent increase in nickel sales; and a 90 per cent increase in base metal sales.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Capel to order for the first time.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** One would have thought that the opposition would acknowledge and support this great news, but unfortunately members opposite just want to shout, carp and criticise. It is remarkable news. Sales of \$48.4 billion are equivalent to the gross domestic product of countries such as Qatar, which is a competitor with Western Australia in liquefied natural gas sales. It is also equivalent to the gross domestic product of countries such as Croatia, Slovenia and Luxembourg. Our sales in 2006 were equivalent to their economies. That is the scale of production from a state that has two million people, or 10 per cent of the country's population. It is a remarkable result and a response to the Fraser Institute report. It also puts in their place those people who quote selectively from it.