

STATE AGREEMENT ACTS — AMENDMENTS

62. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Treasurer:

The Treasurer has ruled out increasing the special lease rental in the legacy state agreements with BHP and Rio Tinto to \$5 a tonne. In light of the answer he just gave to the member for Belmont, will he instead pursue a CPI increase of 25c to the special lease fee, or will he allow the companies to cash out the levy?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I have a sneaking suspicion that the Leader of the National Party wants me to implement the Nationals' policy—I am just getting a sense! I can sometimes miss the point but I think I have got the point now. We will not be implementing the Nationals' policy. The Leader of the Nationals will be surprised to hear me say that! As I have said in this place time and time again, we will look to all parts of the community to contribute to resolving the financial mess that the Liberal Party left to us. That particular characteristic of the former government will flow through this government and probably the one thereafter as it continues to rampage through the state's balance sheet. While I am dealing with that characteristic, it will take some time, and I will be looking to everybody, including the business community, to help contribute towards resolving that particular characteristic that has been bequeathed to us.