

WAGES POLICY — POLICE

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

I refer to the Labor Party's pre-election document entitled "WA Labor, Public Sector Policy" in which it states that a McGowan Labor government would —

- Negotiate cross-Government General Agreements which maintain penalty rates and commuted overtime allowances whilst maintaining the current wages policy.

Is it fair that the Premier has broken his promise to the WA Police Union, yet flatly refused to implement alternative revenue sources such as the special lease rental increase, which would allow the government to appropriately support our hardworking police officers?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I reiterate that I am a strong supporter of our police across Western Australia. More than 6 000 police officers across our state do a good job in very difficult circumstances, and sometimes in the most remote parts of Western Australia—indeed, in some of the most remote parts of the world. In answering this question, I say that I attended the rally outside a little earlier. I stayed for the Leader of the National Party's speech and I heard her say, "The government is saying that from its wages policy it's going to save \$520 million. Well, that's nothing." She said that was nothing. The member for Central Wheatbelt, who was a minister in the former government and is now the Leader of the National Party, regards \$520 million as nothing. That explains why the state is —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time. If you think someone is misleading the house, implement the process to follow-up on it, but do not say it if you have not.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That explains why the state government has inherited such a dire financial position. The combination of the Liberals and Nationals in government over the course of the last eight and a half years was catastrophic for this state's finances, and we as a government are dealing with it. The fact that the Leader of the National Party goes out and says such grossly irresponsible things about the government's wages policy shows exactly where the conservative forces in this state are at at this point in time.

I also note that the Leader of the National Party is raising the ripping up state agreement acts again. The Treasurer, a few months ago—the Leader of the National Party must have now done this on at least 15 occasions in this house—said that it is like groundhog day listening to the Leader of the National Party in this house. It is true that the Leader of the National Party seems to be fixated on this point.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will explain this to the Leader of the National Party again. State agreement acts are important for encouraging investment and jobs in this state. We are not going to rip up state agreement acts; that appears to be the Liberals' and Nationals' policy—to rip up state agreement acts.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Leader of the National Party seems to have a hatred of iron ore miners in this state who employ many tens of thousands of Western Australians.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I do not have that hatred of the iron ore miners that the Leader of the National Party has, and state agreement acts —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am sorry; I heard some interjecting back there, Mr Speaker.

I do not have that hatred —

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Pardon? I thought the member for Cottesloe mainly concentrated on talkback these days, but it appears that he is still here and saying things in the house. Member for Cottesloe, I would stick to talkback if I was you.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I'd try to be a decent Premier if I was you!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, it was a fair call, but I will give you a fair call, too! I call you to order for the first time, but it was a good one.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It was good; I will pay that one. I am pleased that the member for Cottesloe is playing an important role in here.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am looking forward to the supplementary question. There is no doubt it will be a repeat of what the Leader of the National Party asked before.