

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (TEMPORARY COVID-19 PROVISIONS) BILL 2022

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

I have a supplementary question. Why does the Premier's government continue to treat this Parliament with contempt, pushing through legislation with minimal notice and limiting time for scrutiny while at the same time cancelling sitting weeks that have been scheduled?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Transport and Minister for Health!

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: And not to be left out, obviously, Minister for Water!

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I pointed out before, on 9 August, Hon Nick Goiran demanded the end of the state of emergency. On 14 June 2022, the Leader of the Opposition demanded the end of the state of emergency. The Leader of the Liberal Party demanded it on 11 May 2022. We have been drafting the law, in addition to a whole range of other things, in an environment, I might add, in which it is difficult to get drafters. Like everyone else in Western Australia, it is difficult to get employees because the economy is so strong. That is our curse. We have created such a strong economy that it is now difficult to get things done because there is so much demand out there. That is a problem, I suppose, due to the fact we have run the economy in a way that has been so effective. But the legislation was agreed to by cabinet yesterday. We are introducing it as soon as we can. If we did not do that, members opposite would criticise us —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Hold on. If we do not pass it, it means we cannot implement it. We want to implement it.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We could introduce it in a month's time, then we would not be able to pass it, and you are demanding we pass it now.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, this is not your question; please do not interject.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is hard to deal with you, because no matter what we do, it is wrong in your books. We are just doing it. The legislation is more benign than the existing state of emergency legislation.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The opposition is getting a briefing today, but we intend to deal with the issue, otherwise we will have to extend this state of emergency for longer, which it will object to.