

MAITLAND-WEST INTERCOURSE ISLAND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

697. Mrs C.A. MARTIN to the Minister for State Development:

I refer the minister to a speech made by the Leader of the Opposition to the National Trust of Australia on 7 April 2003 in which he committed a Barnett Liberal Government to proceed with the development of the Maitland-West Intercourse Island industrial estate in the Pilbara.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Were you there?

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: Where is this hostility coming from? The Leader of the Opposition should calm down and take a deep breath.

The SPEAKER: It is very difficult when members interject on a question. I ask members to not do that. The member for Kimberley has the call.

Mr M.W. Trenorden: Write your own questions.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the National Party!

Points of Order

Dr G.I. GALLOP: If this Parliament is to function, Mr Speaker, the Opposition must listen to your recommendations.

Mr M.W. Trenorden: What a joke!

Dr G.I. GALLOP: This will be a difficult week. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to show some leadership in this Parliament.

Mr J.L. BRADSHAW: I noticed earlier in the day when the Deputy Premier was given three minutes in which to speak that he spoke when you were on your feet, Mr Speaker. That rule tends to be ignored as well. It should be one for one.

The SPEAKER: It is quite clear that this House will descend into anarchy if members wish to abuse the rules. I will not allow members to continually abuse the rules. A certain amount of interjection is permissible, but the level of interjections that we have witnessed today is disgraceful.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I raise a point of order in relation to the so-called point of order of the Premier, which was not a point of order and which breached your ruling.

The SPEAKER: The Premier made a point of order in relation to standards and about members abusing the directions of the Chair. The member for Kimberley has the call.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: I understand that this commitment by the Leader of the Opposition has an estimated cost of \$300 million.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the commitment given by the Leader of the Opposition?
- (2) Has the Leader of the Opposition changed his opinion on this commitment?
- (3) Has the Leader of the Opposition indicated how he would pay for this commitment?

Mr C.J. Barnett: Table the speech.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: My final question is -

- (4) What would be the real cost of developing the Maitland industrial estate?

Mr C.M. BROWN replied:

I thank the member for Kimberley for the question.

- (1)-(4) The Leader of the Opposition addressed the Burrup Peninsula Forum on 7 April 2003 and spoke about what he would do to develop the Maitland estate. He said -

I would proceed and this government has failed to proceed with Maitland, I would reactivate and proceed with Maitland . . .

I can understand the Leader of the Opposition making a promise today, forgetting about it tomorrow and making a contradictory promise the day after; however, he has made a commitment in this area.

His commitment was that he would develop the Maitland industrial estate. This is an opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to interject and to say whether he will move away from that commitment or whether he still maintains that commitment. He does not still have that commitment!

Mr C.J. Barnett: What a pathetic minister.

Mr C.M. BROWN: How weak! How insipid! The Leader of the Opposition made a statement in a public forum. He said what he would do, but as soon as we remind him of that promise close to the election, we find that he has completely forgotten about it. Amnesia has set in! Why is he forgetting about it? It is because he said that he would spend \$300 million to develop this estate. No costings were done. There was nothing to indicate how the money would be found. He was simply going to do that. Costings have now been done for developing this estate and those costings, which are desk-top figures, amount to \$479 million. Is this going to be like the Liberal Party's commitments in 1992 when it said it would not close down the Midland railway workshops? Do those opposite remember that commitment? That was a good commitment! What about the other one: no worker will be worse off under workplace agreements! Do members opposite remember that commitment? Do members remember the lies that were told by the Liberal Party in the lead-up to the election? Do members remember the lies that were told to the people in my electorate when they were told that this would not be done? Let us see whether this is a lie. Let us see whether the Leader of the Opposition will go forward and develop this estate, because I have not heard him say it yet. Will the Leader of the Opposition develop this estate? He cannot answer the question. Let the record show that the Leader of the Opposition has been in the community making these commitments, which he cannot fulfil. What are we to take from that? As the Treasurer has said, the Leader of the Opposition has a different promise for everyone. The promises change on a day-to-day basis. They are inconsistent and he has no follow-through. What should we take from this? Should we take it that everything the Leader of the Opposition has said in the past three and three-quarter years has no validity? He says I have been the worst Minister for State Development. I will give members a little statistic. How much investment was there in the eight years under his Government? Investment amounted to \$16 billion over eight years. How much has been spent on investment by the Gallop Government in four years? An amount of \$18 billion. That is not bad for a failure. The only thing the Leader of the Opposition did more of was releasing media statements congratulating himself. He just about drowned in the media releases congratulating himself. No-one else believed them. I take it that because the Leader of the Opposition has not replied he does not intend to go ahead with that commitment, that he does not intend to spend \$479 million and that, once again, this is a hollow commitment by the Opposition - not a commitment, but an attempt to mislead the people in the north, and particularly those in the Pilbara.