

ELECTORAL REFORM AND NATIVE FORESTRY — REGIONS

**524. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Why did the Premier not raise these important issues before the election and give the people of Western Australia a chance to have their say? Are these two decisions not just an example of the massive and arrogant overreach of this McGowan Labor government?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The answer is clearly no. I want to explain to the member how things work. At the 2017 election, we did not take a policy of voluntary assisted dying to it—we did not, but it is an issue, so we addressed it. We put in place a select committee. Actually, Malcolm McCusker, QC, AC, did a review; a select committee worked on it and we passed voluntary assisted dying laws. We did not take a policy to the 2017 —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the Opposition asked a question, will she let me answer the question?

We did not take a policy to the state election for overarching planning reform in 2017. But obviously COVID hit and we needed activity and we put in place planning reforms, which created activity in Western Australia. We did not take industrial manslaughter laws to the 2017 election. Obviously, there were numerous cases of people in the workplace dying horrible deaths—terrible things—and we reviewed the laws and brought in industrial manslaughter laws. We took none of them to the 2017 election. Do members opposite think that we took to the 2017 election laws to deal with COVID? No, we did not; but COVID hit and we dealt with the situation.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the Opposition asked me the question; will she let me answer it, please?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members of the opposition.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We did not know at the 2021 election that someone from the Daylight Saving Party would be elected with 98 votes. I did not have a crystal ball and know that was going to occur. One Liberal Party candidate apparently got 27 000 votes and was not elected, yet Mr Tucker from the Daylight Saving Party got 98 votes and was elected. Obviously, that situation needs to be dealt with. We had an overarching review of the electoral system in the upper house and it came up with some great democratic, fair recommendations to improve the upper house and stop the rorting and the undemocratic practices up there. What has been going on in the upper house is a complete rort of the will of the people, a rort of democracy and an undermining of democratic practices that are out of place in the western world. The committee has called it out and we are going to reform it!