

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

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

Can the Premier please confirm that despite promises during the recent state election that the Labor Party was committed to royalties for regions, he is in fact planning to remove \$2.1 billion of funding from this program over the forward estimates?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I heard the Governor's speech and the Governor indicated that the government was supportive of royalties for regions and outlined a range of projects that would be funded by it. I can confirm to the house that the Governor was correct. We remain committed to royalties for regions and we will continue to support royalties for regions projects across the state. I note that a couple of days before the state election that the member's Liberal friends announced that they were going to pull all sorts of financial commitments out of the royalties for regions program. Her Liberal friends were committed to pulling \$800 million, \$1 billion—something like that—out of the royalties for regions program. I also note that we made a range of commitments around Western Australia that resulted in a range of members being elected, in addition to being elected for their very fine personal qualities. I am looking at the member for Bunbury who is one, as are the members for Pilbara, Albany and Murray–Wellington. A range of members were elected because Labor has a plan for Western Australia to strengthen our economy, to provide good social services and to make sure that we keep our regions strong. I talked to this house a moment ago about how large amounts of the Perth Freight Link money, which was all to be spent in the heart of Perth, will go to regional WA. That would not have happen on the opposition's watch.