

LYNAS RARE EARTHS PROJECT, KALGOORLIE — ENERGY AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

I refer to comments reported from the 2023 Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum made by the CEO of Lynas Rare Earths in reference to phase 2 of its project in Kalgoorlie—specifically, that there was a lack of common energy and water treatment and supply infrastructure to support the next stage of its project.

- (1) Does the Premier agree with this assessment?
- (2) What is the government doing to address the specific concerns?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. The challenge for any state government at this point in time is how to meet the confident investments in new industries that are being made in our state, such as in renewable energy and obviously critical minerals and rare earths. It is a good challenge to have. Companies are looking to invest in Western Australia because they know that this is the place to set up camp and invest to get into the renewable energy and new energy game. It is a challenge for us. We understand that we have power and water infrastructure issues that need to be addressed, not just in Kalgoorlie but also all around the state. We are working to understand the needs of industry, and particularly those that are looking to be part of the new global advanced manufacturing industries, to make sure that they have the facilities, industrial land and utilities they need to be able to continue to make confident decisions. I know that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum met with Lioneville yesterday.

Mr W.J. Johnston: I did meet with Lioneville, but this is Lynas.

Mr R.H. COOK: Lynas—sorry. The minister met with the company yesterday to discuss these issues. I was in Kalgoorlie last week, and we discussed these issues with a whole range of industry interests. We will continue to make sure that we meet with industry to understand its needs. The Western Australian Labor government will ensure that it remains an important investment partner so that industry can continue to work with us and we can benefit from the great projects that industry is bringing to the state.