

PUBLIC SECTOR — INVOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

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

I refer to the Premier's comments during the budget estimates process that he would not consider involuntary redundancies in order to meet his target of slashing 3 000 public sector jobs by March. Given that the government has only five months to get rid of 3 000 people, is the Premier still ruling out involuntary redundancies?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

In the budget, the Treasurer announced a voluntary targeted separation scheme of 3 000 across the public sector. The idea is that we will seek expressions of interest from across the public sector to secure those 3 000 voluntary redundancies. They are voluntary redundancies. We need to, obviously, repair, as best we can, the shocking budget situation the Liberal and National Parties left us. That is the situation we face. I find it a little galling that the National Party has asked this question on the same day it is voting down the most reasonable revenue measure—the gold royalty revenue measure—that takes account of all National Party members' concerns. National Party members are prepared to go out there in a completely bloody-minded way and decide to vote down that measure.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I want to hear the answer.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** To me, it shows some hide for the National Party to be out there talking about any of these issues in light of what it has done. The policy we took to the state election on that issue is this —

- Revamp the process for involuntary severances and ensure that they are only applied in very limited circumstances that are clearly defined.

There it is!