

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — 2020–21 STATE BUDGET

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

I have a supplementary question. Is the reason that the Premier refuses to return the \$1.9 billion that it has already been spent on Perth projects like pedestrian bridges and Perth city deals?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Regional WA has been the beneficiary of numerous projects under this government. But one thing we do not do is to try to divide the city against the country. We do not try to say that there are two classes of people in Western Australia; we support people in the regions and the city. We support both groups of people across our community and we fund important projects all over the state, from the far north to the far south and everywhere in between.

What I have learnt from recent events nationally is that the model of the Liberal and National Parties does not work. We saw it in New South Wales when the Leader of the Nationals basically walked out of cabinet because he wanted the right to kill koalas, and the Liberal Party and the National Party are having a fight. We saw in the last Liberal–National government in Western Australia that the Liberals and Nationals could not work together. Basically, both the Liberals and Nationals in this state make commitments that are totally and utterly unaffordable between the two of them. Therefore, if they ever come back to government again, they will bankrupt the state once again. The model does not work of the Liberals and Nationals, coming together in the way that they do, and until they sort that out, they can never come back to government.