

STATE AGREEMENT ACTS — AMENDMENTS

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

I have a supplementary question. That is all very funny, Premier, but the Premier is going to look to mums and dads, and households —

The SPEAKER: Member, can I have a question, please?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I do have a question.

The SPEAKER: Yes, but not a comment, thank you.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Why does the Premier continue to refuse to address the fact that the state agreements for BHP and Rio Tinto contain a charge set in the 1960s—tax deductible—that has never been increased, while he increases fees and charges for mums and dads, households and small businesses? They are doing the heavy lifting.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Mr Speaker, you might recall that back in 2010, I think it was, the former government increased, by agreement with Rio Tinto and BHP, the royalties on fines, which is a form of iron ore. It was by agreement. If we want to change a state agreement —

Ms M.J. Davies: That is the question. Are you going to seek any amendments to state agreements? You could have just said yes, but you are not ever going to have the conversation with them.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time; and member for North West Central, I call you to order for the second time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If we want to change state agreements, we do it by agreement, because they are contracts. We will work through the catastrophic financial position the state now faces because of the Liberal–National government. They left us—the National Party has a large share of the blame for this—in the worst financial position in the history of this state, and the worst financial position in the history of any state in the commonwealth! So, we will have to do it. But destroying confidence in the state’s economy and ripping up state agreement acts is not something we are prepared to do. The entire mining industry should be very frightened about a Liberal–National government, because the Liberal Party will form a coalition with those people and be the enemy of the mining industry.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: I am going to be very generous today, because I want to make sure —

Ms L.L. Baker: Mr Speaker!

The SPEAKER: It is like flogging a dead horse, is it not? The member for Nedlands.