

EDNA MAY MINE

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

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Premier seeking to alter a state agreement to maintain jobs in the Pilbara but he will not step in to support mining in the eastern wheatbelt where jobs are very much required and are very important to the community, the lack of which could potentially shut down future employment and the little community of Westonia?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I think I answered that question with my initial comments. I say again that the government is supportive of jobs and mining and other forms of investment. There are matters surrounding Mr Palmer: 3 000-plus jobs, Australia's reputation as a safe place to invest and our relationship with major trading partners and partners around the world are at risk. In the case of this project, work is going on between the proponent and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, and I am hopeful that they will reach a good outcome. I think that is an appropriate way of addressing the matter.