

NET DEBT — 2022–23 STATE BUDGET

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. Premier, yes or no—will WA taxpayers be saddled with higher debt in 2025 than they are today?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier. Only the Premier, thank you.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

We paid off a third of the debt we inherited from the Liberals and Nationals. It is down \$14 billion on where it was under their forward estimates. The way the forward estimates were constructed had it going to \$44 billion, but knowing the way the Liberals and Nationals governed, it would have been significantly higher than that.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do members opposite remember the Treasurers?

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Hold on. I will run through them for you: Buswell, Barnett, Porter, Barnett, Buswell, Barnett, Nahan. That is seven. That was the order of Treasurers. Troy Buswell was Treasurer twice.

We paid off \$14 billion. We have reduced state debt by a third, and we are the only state government that has done so. Our intention is to continue on that pathway, but I will not put overly optimistic iron ore prices and revenue forecasts in the forward estimates that would set this state up for failure.