

STATE AGREEMENT ACTS — AMENDMENTS

63. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Treasurer has ruled out the special lease rental increase of \$5 a tonne and is not committing to a CPI increase or a cash-out, how does he justify the fact that these two companies are paying a charge that was set in the 1960s and never been increased, while he is increasing fees and charges for every other sector?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I think it is only fair to make the point that the lease rental fee is not the only charge the companies pay. I think it has been well explored in this place that, unfortunately, we do not capture that royalty wealth. It is effectively redistributed, almost in its entirety, to other parts of the state. Before I go down an approach of pursuing revenue, I want to ensure that I do not just gift a huge amount of revenue to other states, which will have a detrimental impact on jobs for our local economy. As the Premier pointed out a little while ago, we have an unemployment issue in this state. Simply because of some clear hostility the National Party has to big miners in this state—I understand the Leader of the National Party has that hostility, but I do not know why—I will not implement policy based on, “I want to get you back.”

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am sorry that Mr Grylls lost his seat, but I will not implement policy of, “I’m going to get you back.” That is not the way we do things in this state. We will look to a broad range of ideas, some of which have already made it into the media, and we will continue to do that all the way up to the budget cut-off date.