

WOODSIDE — FLY IN, FLY OUT CAMP — KARRATHA

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

Given that both the member for Pilbara and the Minister for Environment are on record as opposing fly in, fly out work camps, will the Premier listen to his own MPs and the community and today rule out signing off on Woodside building a 700-bed donga camp in the middle of Karratha?

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Housing, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the Leader of the National Party for the question. I think it is important to note that these days the only part of the opposition benches that asks me questions is the National Party.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am happy to answer questions from the National Party because they are far more insightful than questions from the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: You don't ask me any! What am I to do?

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What I am to do?

I thank the Leader of the National Party for the question. The Leader of the National Party was not here yesterday when one of her predecessors, the member for Warren–Blackwood, asked me a question in relation to a similar issue, so perhaps she was not aware that in January this year, the Minister for Lands, as the member for Warren–Blackwood then was —

Mr D.T. Redman: Will you take an interjection?

Mr M. McGOWAN: No, I am answering this question. His agency, LandCorp —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood and Leader of the National Party, I call you both to order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: In January this year, LandCorp, under the former Minister for Lands, the member for Warren–Blackwood, signed off finally on the FIFO camp —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am sorry?

Mr D.T. Redman: That did not have my support.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: LandCorp, under the member for Warren–Blackwood, in January this year signed off on the FIFO work camp at Wheatstone, 50 or so kilometres from Onslow. So if the National Party had such grave concerns about this issue —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, you have asked a question and you just keep answering it. Just let the Premier answer it.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the National Party has such grave concerns about this issue, why is it that when it was in government, the member for Warren–Blackwood signed off, a mere matter of months ago, on the FIFO work camp at Wheatstone? Why is that? I am loath to use the word, but “hypocrisy” springs to mind from the National Party. In relation to Woodside, that is a matter that, as I understand it, is currently under some negotiation. There is some consideration by the WA Planning Commission. I want to make it very plain that I want to see Woodside, Rio, BHP, FMG and other mining ventures in Western Australia prosper in our state. The member for Pilbara has been an absolute advocate of the mining industry and the oil and gas industry in Western Australia. Whilst the National Party, in its desperate attempt to hurt and denigrate the mining industry and oil and gas industry in Western Australia, is out there running them down at every possible opportunity, I assume with the connivance of

their partners in the Liberal Party, the member for Pilbara and I have been out there standing up for mining jobs, seeking mining investment and seeking to ensure that Woodside brings its gas onshore at the North West Shelf. That is the difference. We are the party of jobs, apprenticeships, investment and opportunities for Western Australians, and the National Party are hypocritical wreckers.