

ALINTAGAS, PUBLIC FLOAT

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR BAKER (Joondalup) [12.55 pm]: I wish to use this brief opportunity to congratulate the State Government, and in particular the Minister for Energy, on the successful public float of AlintaGas on Tuesday. I also congratulate them on the consequential retirement of \$320m of the debt of the Gas Corporation and another \$121m of general government debt. I particularly welcome the proposed expenditure of \$310m on the construction of the urban rail extension, which will include the extension of the northern suburbs rail line from Currabine north to Clarkson. I note that the Labor Party had opposed the sale but has now hailed the manner in which the State Government has decided to distribute the net proceeds of the sale. The Labor Party now claims to have an anti-privatisation policy, despite having previously supported its federal comrade's decision to privatise the Commonwealth Bank and Qantas. Members may not be aware that the State Labor Party secretly privatised the Joondalup Public Golf Course back in 1992, despite its solemn undertaking not to do so. It thereby deprived many Connolly residents of their contractual right to have free access to this golf course. Clearly, the Labor Party's policy on privatisation is the epitome of hypocrisy.