

BUILDING INDUSTRY, ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

100. Mrs EDWARDES to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Has the minister seen a copy of or received advice on the current pattern EBA, the CFMEU is demanding the building and construction employers to sign?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the building industry estimates that this EBA is likely to increase building costs by 20 to 25 per cent on current market values?
- (3) Has the minister seen the newspaper article dated 21 March 2001 stating that Western Australia has the second highest building costs in Australia?
- (4) Is the minister concerned that the new EBA is likely to make Western Australia the State with the highest building costs and the impact that this will have on investment within the State?

Mr KOBELKE replied:

- (1) Yes. Under section 29A(2b) of the Industrial Relations Act 1979, all parties seeking an industrial agreement (EBA) must serve copies of proposed agreements on the Minister for Labour Relations.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. The article referred to the availability of labour, the distance between building locations and suppliers, and the availability of materials as contributors to building costs in this State.
- (4) I am concerned about WA's performance against a wide range of economic indicators relevant to my portfolio, including labour costs and availability and investment levels for all Western Australian industries.