

FLY IN, FLY OUT WORKERS — INTERSTATE — PERMANENT WA RESIDENTS

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier.

- (1) Will the Premier's state government prioritise the relocation of those willing to come to WA permanently to regional areas?
- (2) What incentives will the state government offer those considering moving to WA?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) We have not resolved any incentives at this time and that obviously has a degree of controversy attached to it. Clearly, having lost most of our international migration, we need to work with the housing industry to create the opportunities for demand. If people were to come here and build a house in a regional town or in a suburb of Perth, that would be a great net benefit to the state's economy. On top of that, there is the income generated. The average mining worker receives an income way in excess of the average weekly earnings of someone in Western Australia. Both of those things are huge advantages to the state. We have not finally settled on what any incentives may be or to what degree they will be. One of the things that has occurred I think out of all of this is that people coming here, however they stay or whatever their arrangements are, will actually have had a bit of a taste of Western Australia and seen what it is like. Clearly, their partners or spouses would probably appreciate that two days every fortnight or two days every three weeks they are not on a plane flying back and forth across the country. There is a historic opportunity here out of this, and we are trying to grab it because it has not presented itself in this way before because we have not made FIFO workers move from the east to here in the way we have with the hard border—another advantage of the hard border. The hard border has many advantages for Western Australia. It is just a pity the Liberal Party does not understand that. This is an advantage of the hard border that was not foreseen, but it is something we want to take advantage of in the interests of the Western Australian economy.