

FEDERAL ELECTION — NICK FARDELL

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [12.55 pm]: I would like to put on record that Nick Fardell, Nationals WA Senate candidate in the upcoming federal election —

Ms M.M. Quirk: “Big” Nick!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: “Big” Nick!

He has done a remarkable job covering this state of ours. Anyone who has met “Big” Nick will know that his nickname is an apt description. For the record, he is almost seven feet tall and a knockabout bloke from Kalgoorlie. An underground miner and tradie who built a goldfields business from the ground up, “Big” Nick employed many people before throwing his hat into the ring to go to Canberra.

He was endorsed as the Nationals candidate in April last year, and has since spent every waking hour on the road. He has travelled 70 000 kilometres in nine months—about 230 kilometres per day—to make sure everyone who wants to can look him in the eye and shake his hand. Over a five-day span in November, “Big” Nick visited Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Karratha and Port Hedland, driving himself the whole way. He has been to Kambalda, Bunbury, Moora, Laverton, Leonora and Albany more than four times each. He has been to Collie, Menzies, Northam, Wiluna, Meekatharra, Carnarvon, Karratha, Roebourne and Newman multiple times. He has been everywhere! It is disappointing that over the same period the man who wants to be our Prime Minister—Bill Shorten—has visited regional WA once.

But “Big” Nick is not all about the kays he has covered; he has a number of policies on the table. There is a plan to bring a military base to the Pilbara; a plan to wipe the HECS debts of people willing to live and work in regional WA for five years; and his plan to remove tax incentives for fly in, fly out. As Leader of the Nationals, on behalf of the parliamentary team, I thank Nick for his work. I believe he would be an asset to the Senate, and someone prepared to stand up for every Western Australian.