

ALCOA — KWINANA REFINERY

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

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier please provide a time line for when this issue will be settled so that the thousands of people who are reliant on this business can be assured that they have ongoing employment?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Member, I cannot because that is essentially a process that is under examination by the Environmental Protection Authority. I think the EPA considerations are material to what Alcoa will consider in relation to the viability of its ongoing operations. That is something that the government quite rightly does not have oversight of. It is important that it is part of an independent process, but we are working very closely with Alcoa to understand its constraints and ambitions to move forward.

As I said, Alcoa works in some very contested areas, but it provides a very important opportunity for work for thousands of Western Australians and important economic activity for the Western Australian economy, so we want to support it as best we can. As I said, we are meeting with its representatives regularly to understand all the issues surrounding it. The Alcoa refinery is a heritage development for the Kwinana industrial strip. It is an important part of our capability and it is an important part of our economy, and we want to see it continue.