

GST DISTRIBUTION

**703. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. I take that as a yes that he supports the federal government's proposal. In the interests of bipartisanship and of all Western Australians, will he join me and the Leader of the Opposition in signing a letter to Mr Bill Shorten, the Leader of the Opposition, urging him to match the federal government's commitment to overhaul the GST distribution formula and support any legislation to effect this change in the federal Parliament?

Members opposite: Hear, hear!

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I think the leader of the National Party is not really understanding that the federal opposition is the opposition—it is not the government.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** You asked a question. Listen to the answer.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** What I am seeking is not something sprung during question time from the thought bubbles of the National Party.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am seeking from the federal government correspondence that confirms the arrangements that the Prime Minister of Australia, as he then was, advised me of a few months ago.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, do not have the argument across the chamber. If you want to have an argument, have it with me.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I do know that Bill Shorten said he was on a unity ticket with the federal government. If the arrangement is put in place, —

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** — considering former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has now gone —

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I suppose I can speak frankly; he seems to be speaking frankly about a range of things these days. He had no time for the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, he barely knew who he was. At the first meeting I had with him, he asked me —

*Point of Order*

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** The Leader of the National Party asked a question: will the Premier sign the letter to go to Bill Shorten? That is the question.

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** At the first meeting I had with him, he asked me the question: who is the Leader of the Opposition in Western Australia? He did not know. I told him who it was.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** You always get personal.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He was personal.

He expressed some displeasure about the member for Riverton. The view of political parties nationally of the state Liberals and the state Nationals is not good. I would not expect any letter they send will be viewed very favourable by anyone in Canberra.