

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. In the “WA Labor Financial Management Plan” released in March, the page titled “RFR Funded Priorities” identifies only \$693.7 million to be spent over the forward estimates, which means a \$2.1 billion cut over the forward estimates. Can the Premier clarify which programs he is going to be axing?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

One of the things that happen when ministers go into opposition, on occasion—certainly not when the last Labor government went into opposition, but when the Barnett Liberal-National government went into opposition—is that they are shown up —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Former ministers are shown up because they do not have all the staff and departmental assistance that they had. Being in opposition is hard; members have to do the research themselves. They have to do the work themselves. I know that that will come as a shock to a number of members on that side of the house. I have some sympathy for them. Fortunately for me, I was elected when Labor was in opposition so I learnt self-reliance. The Leader of the National Party has not learnt self-reliance and, I suspect, based on that performance, it will take her some time to learn it. The member might note that money inside the royalties for regions program has been already allocated towards various existing projects, many of which are proceeding. However, we will go through our budget processes, we will deliver on our commitments to the regions and we will keep the royalties for regions program.

House adjourned at 4.23 pm
