

AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY

**167. Mr M. HUGHES to the Minister for Science:**

I refer to this government's proposal for a mission control centre to be funded by the new Australian Space Agency. Can the minister advise the house whether the federal Liberal government has supported this proposal; and, if not, can the minister outline to the house how the federal Liberal government has responded to Western Australia's efforts to be part of the Australian Space Agency?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

I thank the member for Kalamunda for the question. Members of the house will recall that the federal government last year kicked off the Australian Space Agency. As part of that agency's make-up, the federal government called for states to pitch projects for which the Australian Space Agency might commit money. In the budget there was \$15 million for projects for the federal government to fund. The state government worked hard with the scientific community here in Western Australia, led by the Chief Scientist. We came up with a range of projects that the federal government, through the space agency, could support here in WA. One of those projects was a mission control centre in Western Australia to provide mission control capabilities, which would build on the relationships we already have with agencies such as NASA and the European Space Agency.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The idea of a mission control facility was conceived in Western Australia and worked through with the scientific community, to build on the relationships we already have. Western Australia is one of the only places on the planet with which both NASA and ESA engage. We put in that application.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I want to hear the answer.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Yesterday, the relevant minister, Minister Andrews, made an announcement that the Australian Space Agency will indeed fund a mission control centre, but it was announced that it will be funded in Adelaide!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** This was a project that was worked through with the scientific community here in Western Australia to build on our capability. The federal Liberal government has announced that it is a great idea, and it will fund it in Adelaide. What this shows yet again —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** There is one question left on this side. If you keep interjecting, it will not happen. Minister.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** What it shows is that, yet again, the federal Liberal government takes Western Australia for granted. I can tell members opposite that the scientific community is absolutely ropeable.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Members opposite can sit here and make snide remarks.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** Your side is making snide remarks, not us.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** What on earth would the member for Churchlands know!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Churchlands!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The scientific community is absolutely ropeable that, yet again, the federal Liberal government is taking them for granted. What it shows is that Christopher Pyne, with one foot in the retirement lounge, can get more for his state than the federal Liberals here in WA. From day one, Senator Reynolds has been criticising Western Australia rather than supporting the development of a space agency here in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Churchlands, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** People like Andrew Hastie and Christian Porter, instead of being part of team Western Australia on this issue —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, you should be setting an example!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** When the federal Liberal government announced last year that it was going to put the space agency in Adelaide, Senator Reynolds went out in the media and said 11 times that Western Australia had not put in a submission to the federal government. She said that 11 times on radio. It took us about 30 minutes to produce the submission we put in to show that Senator Reynolds was misleading the people of WA. What we need from members of the Western Australian Liberal Party, including those in this chamber, is for them to actually come on board with team WA. It is all right for the Leader of the Opposition to make snide remarks in this chamber, but the scientific community here in WA is absolutely ropeable at the lack of support for them from the Western Australian Liberal Party, both at the state and federal levels.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Members opposite can make snide remarks here, but outside the scientific community is absolutely livid. There are other projects. There is other funding available from the Australian Space Agency. I call upon members opposite to actually come on board and start supporting the scientific community here in Western Australia, rather than a failed federal Liberal government.