

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — 2020–21 STATE BUDGET

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. I am not sure that the Premier entirely answered the question. Can the Premier confirm, so the people of regional Western Australia are absolutely clear, that the Premier and his regional members of Parliament fully support the subsidisation of the Water Corporation, TAFE fees, orange school buses and paying for Metronet with funds from royalties for regions, the state's regional development program—yes or no?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Clearly, from the tone of the Leader of the National Party's question —
Several members interjected.

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

Mr M. McGOWAN: Clearly from the tone of the question, the Nationals WA does not support supporting families all over regional Western Australia with support for their water bills, electricity bills and school buses for children. Clearly, Nationals members do not support that. But, frankly, that is a new position because when they were in office under the royalties for regions program, what did they do? They subsidised from royalties for regions the orange school bus scheme. They subsidised water around regional WA.

Ms M.J. Davies: No, we didn't.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, you did!

They subsidised the Pilbara essential services program, which is the water program all over the Pilbara, to the tune of more than \$100 million.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: They subsidised the orange school bus initiative out of royalties for regions when they were in office.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party! I call you to order for the second time. You have already had two goes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: No, no. I am just letting the member know a few things.

When they were in office, they put money into a so-called core business, which, of course, was capital works in schools. Are hospitals a core business?

There is no answer!

The SPEAKER: I will allow you to —

Mr M. McGOWAN: Members opposite put money into hospital builds when they were in office. They might note that much of our hospital build for regional WA is out of the consolidated account. I think the Leader of the National Party comes to this argument with some history. The history is, obviously, that when she was in office —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do you want me to tell you again? I have it all here.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

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

Mr M. McGOWAN: When it comes to education, orange school buses, roads, water and hospitals, which are things that state governments do, members opposite paid for them out of royalties for regions when they were in office over that eight years. That is what they did. They should not come in here now and say that somehow the government cannot pay for things out of royalties for regions when they did exactly that.