

LANDGATE — COMMERCIALISATION

495. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier confirm that there will not be fee hikes in Landgate's remaining services following the commercialisation?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Some functions will remain with Landgate. We are not privatising Landgate, if that is the suggestion the member is making. Of course, for Landgate's services, each and every year, during the last government, during the government before that, and during the government before that, and the organisations that were the forbearers to Landgate, there was a program of charges that increased over the last 175 years or so. That is the nature of these things—that on occasion, charges go up. That is the natural order. If the member wants to look at the forward estimates, he will see what the arrangement is.

Mr D.T. Redman: Fee hikes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There you are, going on about fee hikes. We remember the days when you put up electricity prices by 80 per cent—25 per cent in one year. We remember the days when you put up three lots of land tax in three successive years. We remember the days when you put up stamp duty year in, year out when you were in office, at the same time as running up massive deficits and at the same time as putting up the state's debt. We also know that the national Liberal Party's plan is to sell off Western Power. We also know that that is your plan. The reason I know that that is your plan is that the Leader of the Opposition said it.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There we are. Does he deny it? No, he does not deny it. I was down there at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry when the Leader of the Opposition made the speech saying they were going to sell off Western Power. I was down there a few months ago when he said that. Let us just understand: that is —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The Leader of the Opposition needs to withdraw the comment he made. He knows what he said. He needs to withdraw it.

Dr M.D. Nahan: The Premier just made —

The SPEAKER: No, it is —

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I withdraw.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: We all saw —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition for the second time.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The member for Warren–Blackwood asked a specific question: are fees going to go up under the privatisation of this —

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. He was dealing with the answer. I am sure the Premier will get to the point.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: We all saw the disgraceful and disgusting conduct of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday in this place when dozens of survivors were in the chamber wanting to hear some kind words towards them, and all we saw was the Liberal Party trying to score disgusting political points.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!