

DARLING RANGE — JOB CREATION

439. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to creating more jobs for the people of Darling Range and providing business with the confidence they need to grow employment.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how this government is delivering its job-creating agenda for the people of Darling Range?
- (2) How does this compare to the eight and a half years of neglect of Darling Range by the former Liberal–National government?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Armadale for the question. Prior to answering that question, I wish the Socceroos all the best this evening in their World Cup game against Denmark.

Dr M.D. Nahan: What about the Eagles?

Mr M. McGOWAN: You have to draw the line somewhere!

Dr M.D. Nahan: You're biased.

Mr M. McGOWAN: All of Western Australia is behind the Socceroos tonight. I especially acknowledge a few Western Australians: Bunbury player Josh Risdon is doing a terrific job; City of Bayswater Soccer Club goalkeeper, Brad Jones; and most important for the member for Armadale, who asked the question, I mention former Kelmscott Senior High School student, Trent Sainsbury. The member for Armadale and the member for West Swan are both stunning products of Kelmscott Senior High School.

The SPEAKER: Great soccer players!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Trent played for Armadale Soccer Club and I think the member for Armadale also may have been a reserve in the C-grade team of Armadale Soccer Club. Well done, member for Armadale, great work!

- (1)–(2) It is true that during our time in office we have created 35 000 jobs in Western Australia. In the past month, 13 000 full-time jobs were created. Internet job vacancies have grown at the fastest rate in Australia. We are seeing 18 per cent annual growth in vacancies. Business confidence is now at a seven-year high. Consumer confidence is at a four-year high in Western Australia and that is exactly what the people of Darling Range need. In Tania Lawrence, we have a candidate who understands business because she has worked at senior levels in business in Western Australia for Woodside, a very good Western Australian company.

The government is also putting in place a range of job-creating projects within the financial constraints under which we are operating. We put in place the Western Australian Jobs Act. We are manufacturing 50 per cent of railcars locally—50-plus per cent—but under the Liberal Party it was two per cent. Of course, we are building Metronet, a project that the Liberal Party wants to scrap. The people of Byford need to understand that if the Liberal Party gets its way, it will scrap Metronet and the Byford rail line. I heard from sources that the member for Churchlands, reputedly, the leader of the Liberal Party, was railing against Metronet, saying that he did not support it. Now we know the Liberal Party does not support the railway to Byford.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I will hear this in silence.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Now we know, and the people of Darling Range should know, that the Liberal Party does not support a railway to Byford. That is correct, is it not?

Several members interjected.

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

Mr M. McGOWAN: They come in here and rail against Metronet, and the people of Byford will be the victims of the Liberal Party if it gets its way. Under us, yesterday we announced the hills tourism strategy.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Minister for Planning, the Minister for Tourism and I are very much focused on the beautiful Perth hills and making sure, as I said rather theatrically, that the Perth hills are alive with the sound of tourists! That is our plan for Perth hills. That is what hills businesses want. They are saying that is what they want;

that is what we are doing: tourism, manufacturing, creating confidence, getting projects up—all the things the Liberal Party in office could not do.