

RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

801. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. The original question was directed at the Premier and not the Minister for Energy because of the comments the Premier made to the ABC and Briana Shepherd yesterday. How can the Premier claim, as he did yesterday, to have very strong policies on renewable energy when his Minister for Energy has claimed that no subsidies are required for solar, he intends to cut the renewable energy buyback scheme and has introduced massive increases in electricity bills for households with solar panels?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

For a start, the presumption of the question is wrong: I did not say it to Briana Shepherd yesterday, just for the record. My memory goes back some distance. If the member wants to talk about solar panels, let us go back to the 2014 or 2015 budget when the Liberal and National Parties were ripping up the agreements between householders and Synergy. Do you remember that, Mr Speaker? It was the member for Riverton's first budget. Do members remember that they were going out and ripping up agreements for the feed-in tariff between households and Synergy? Members opposite went out there and unilaterally said, "We're going to rip up these agreements." Remember that one, Mr Speaker? That one lasted all of four days. It was four days before Premier Barnett worked out what a goose his Minister for Energy was. He thought: hold on, this is not a good idea. He came out on the Thursday and did a backflip on the Monday, or maybe even the Sunday. I recall that it was a glorious few days. Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The member for Warren–Blackwood is referring to the Premier in the most unparliamentary language. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Further to that point of order, I called the Premier a grub, and history in this place says that is not unparliamentary.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Further to the point of order, it is impugning the Premier and it should be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: It has been ruled before that it was okay.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think the Liberals and Nationals in Western Australia are in an appalling state—an embarrassment to this state and to the parties nationally, and the federal Liberals and Nationals know it.