

INDUSTRY — CLOSURES

65. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the collapse of energy-intensive industries, including the shutdown of Alcoa's alumina refinery at Kwinana, the threat of closure of the nickel refinery in Kalgoorlie and the risk of offshoring cement manufacture in Western Australia.

- (1) What representations in writing, if any, has the Premier made to his commonwealth colleagues to carve out vulnerable and low emissions industries from the safeguard mechanism under the allowable provisions for trade-exposed industries?
- (2) If none have been made, why not?
- (3) If representations have been made, can the Premier table those representations?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) We are disappointed by Alcoa's decision to fully curtail production at the Kwinana alumina refinery, and our thoughts go out to the hundreds of workers who will be impacted. That said, I reject the premise of the question. Alcoa said the decision was made due to the facility's age, scale and operating costs, as well as market conditions, and not government policies as the Liberal Party falsely accuses.

Matt Reed, Alcoa's executive vice president and chief operations officer, said suggestions that curtailment at the refinery was the result of government policy "overlooked commercial realities" and that "politicisation of the matter is an unfortunate distraction at a time when the focus should be on caring for our people and others impacted."