

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — PROGRESS REPORT

364. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the claim made on numerous occasions in black and white in the “Royalties for Regions Progress Report July 2012–June 2013”, which the minister referred to yesterday, that 25 per cent of the state’s mining and onshore petroleum reserves are being returned to the regions.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that royalties for regions has never returned 25 per cent of royalties to regional areas?
- (2) Can the minister also confirm that royalties for regions will never return 25 per cent of royalties to the regions?
- (3) When will the minister amend the tabled document he waved around in the house yesterday, to reflect the real situation?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I love it when I get a question from the member for Collie–Preston because he has two lines of commentary. In this chamber, he criticises the program that this government has put in place that is making a difference; and, when he goes out to his electorate, he praises what royalties for regions has been able to deliver to regional Western Australia!

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.T. REDMAN:

- (1)–(3) The premise of the member’s question is whether in fact the government has been able to deliver expenditure to the same level as the royalty revenue that flows into the state. The member for Collie–Preston is accurate in that if members look at a graph of what the 25 per cent figure would have been since the program came into place, the expenditure each year has sat slightly under that projected growth. One point in defence of that has been the level of rigour and planning that has gone into delivering a significant resource out into regional Western Australia that was not there before. I argue strongly that the position that this government has taken is consistent with the policy settings —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, have you swapped seats?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I argue strongly that the position we have taken with royalties for regions is consistent with the policy settings we took to the 2008 election, which have delivered substantial resources into regional Western Australia. The decision has been taken this year that we will apply an expenditure limit of \$1 billion per year. In the next four years, we will have more royalties for regions funds in regional Western Australia than over the last four years.