

JOBS AND INVESTMENT— SOUTH WEST

**372. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:**

I refer to this government's commitment to local jobs and vital infrastructure in the south west.

- (1) How will this government support and create jobs in the south west?
- (2) How is this government investing in the south west and turning around the complete lack of investment in the region by the previous Liberal–National government?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for the question. Is it not a breath of fresh air to have such a wonderful member of Parliament in the electorate of Murray–Wellington? It is certainly a contrast to the former occupant of that role.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is a very good speech, member for South Perth, but you are not on your feet, so I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I can say that the member for South Perth is actually one of “Mike’s Mates”; he is a verified member of “Mike’s Mates”.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** And a puff like you isn’t!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** What?

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** Answer the question.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I will answer the question, and I look forward to further interjections from the Leader of the Opposition.

- (1)–(2) We are making up for a lack of investment in the south west. We are making a massive investment in the south west. I was in Collie on Friday with the member for Collie–Preston to announce some of the things the government will be doing in the south west. We are very much focused on important infrastructure and jobs for people in the south west.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Only in Albany, and nothing else.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Honestly, the Leader of the Opposition has had a bad week. Last weekend he came out with the new concept of Mike’s Mates—I had not heard that before. I look around him and see his good friends to his right—the member for Bateman.

*Point of Order*

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** The answer must be relevant to the question. The Premier is not answering the question.

**The SPEAKER:** I agree.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! That is a point of order. Premier, you will get back to the answer.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am, Mr Speaker, but there was an injection and I want to deal with it quickly. I look to the Leader of the Opposition's right and I see Mike's Mates—the members for Bateman and Churchlands—good friends like them. When I saw the concept and heard the Leader of the Opposition on the news on Sunday night, as soon as I heard “Mike’s Mates” —

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, will you get back to the answer please.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Just let me answer the question. The first thing I thought of was Mike + The Mechanics.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Just hold on. I am fixing up the last one first.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Give it a break! Let me answer the question—seriously!

Several members interjected.

*Point of Order*

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** According to standing order 78, the Premier is not answering the question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Just hold on.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** No, just hold on; I am doing this point of order. Sorry, member for Churchlands, your own members were drowning you out.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** I will state it again. Under standing order 78, the answer must be relevant to the question. The Premier is looking for punchlines to do with Mike + The Mechanics or something ridiculous; he is not even answering his member's question.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Just to answer the question and respond to the —

**The SPEAKER:** Let me finish the point of order. It is a point of order.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, did you want to make a point of order on the point of order?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** I was going to ask a question.

**The SPEAKER:** No, you have a long way to go.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Am I right to go?

**The SPEAKER:** You are right to go.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Just to conclude that analogy of Mike + The Mechanics —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, Premier. Next question. Member for Burns Beach.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** No-one stood up.