

AUSTRALIAN WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS - MINING INDUSTRY

364. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I refer to the Chamber of Minerals and Energy publication *Bedrock 2005: Expanding Horizons*, which states -

The use of individual workplace agreements in the industry has led to: greater flexibility of operations; greater employee commitment to company goals; quick and efficient implementation of changes necessary to meet business demands; and more employee preparedness to demonstrate initiative in helping the business to perform well.

Given the Premier's support for Kim Beazley's plans to abolish individual workplace agreements, how will he justify his position to the Western Australian mining industry?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

Very easily, in the same way I can justify it to everybody else. We stand for an industrial relations system that does not allow exploitation, and is fair to average, ordinary Australian workers. That is all. That is the basic tenet of our position on industrial relations. Yes, we support flexibility; yes, we seek the encouragement of initiative among the work force, and so on, but we want to have a system that makes sure that ordinary working Australians are not exploited. I went through that issue in this chamber last week. I have explained that position to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia and I will explain it to anybody else who asks.