

PERTH-MANDURAH RAILWAY LINE, STRIKE

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

I refer to the three week long strike by 300 workers on the Perth-Mandurah railway line in defiance of the return to work order from the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

- (1) What action will the Premier take to ensure that the contractor is not subject to penalties for delays brought about by this and future illegal industrial actions, such as those in which employees are ordered to return to work by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission?
- (2) If the contractor is forced to pay the penalties for this type of action, will the Premier disallow the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union from essentially holding the contractor to ransom on any issue, legitimate or otherwise?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(2) It appears that, once again, federal industrial law and its administration did not produce a positive result to the conflict between the employers and employees. I know that the best efforts have been put in by my Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to bring about a resolution to this issue.