

PLANNING, FUTURE PERTH PROJECT

13. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Planning:

The Leader of the Opposition recently addressed a Property Council of Australia luncheon on his Perth planning policy. Has the Government announced any similar policies and, if so, when were they announced?

Dr Gallop: You have got it wrong; the Premier pinched my earlier speech.

Mr KIERATH replied:

The Leader of the Opposition is squirming before I even begin!

It was with great interest that I read a report about the Leader of the Opposition's speech to the Property Council of Australia. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, he has paid this Government a huge compliment. I understand his unwillingness to be honest and to attribute the ideas to us. It is left to me to do it for him. I remind the House that in June 1999 I announced the Future Perth project. That announcement was made in the parliamentary dining room. On Foundation Day this year, I announced that the deliberations of the government committee had been released for public comment. The Leader of the Opposition's speech bore an uncanny resemblance to the information we had put out; however, he claimed it as his own.

The Leader of the Opposition said that he wanted to make the most of our proximity to Asia. Page 6 of the document we released for public comment states that Perth is uniquely placed in the Asian time zone and that we should capitalise on our geographic location. The Leader of the Opposition then spoke about an educated and skilled work force, and I refer the House to page 5 of the Government's document. He also spoke about a clean and green environment, which are mentioned on pages 11 and 12 of our document. Those are just a few ideas that were fully explained in the publication launched two months ago. The launch of the document received much interest and enormous acclaim. The only negative comment was made by the member for Armadale, who said the Government should have been doing it seven years ago.

Ms MacTiernan: No, I said the ideas were good -

Mr KIERATH: The member for Armadale says the ideas are good.

Ms MacTiernan: I said the ideas are good, but they bear no relation to your policy. I said they are in direct contradiction of your policy.

Mr KIERATH: I can understand why the Leader of the Opposition would try to borrow those ideas; they are excellent. Those ideas are a product of this Government, not of the intellectually bankrupt Australian Labor Party. The coalition Government put this policy out for comment. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to show his conscience and admit that his speech to the Property Council of Australia plagiarised a document that this Government launched publicly on Foundation Day. I provide evidence of the ALP's pirated policies by tabling a document that was published and launched on Foundation Day this year, not at his address.

[See paper No 84.]