

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY

Statement

HON CHARLES SMITH (East Metropolitan) [9.56 pm]: It gives me great pleasure this evening to announce to the house and to my fellow members of Parliament that I will now be representing the Western Australia Party in the Legislative Council. I have joined the Western Australia Party because it seeks to serve the people of Western Australia first. In an era of rampant and overzealous globalisation, Western Australia has gone from a prosperous and happy state, with a manageable population, to a state where successive governments have embraced a population Ponzi scheme and hedged all their bets on digging dirt and shipping it to China, and the population is selling houses to each other ad infinitum. This decades-old lazy policy has now invited a swathe of economic structural problems. The unsustainable importing of people who are willing to work for less and less money from lower performing countries has beyond doubt put downward pressure on WA locals' wages and made competing for scarce jobs even more difficult. Let us not forget that the point of public policy is to advance living standards, and any keen watcher of statistical data will know from an analysis of that data that our standard of living has gone nowhere for a decade or longer. In per capita terms we have seen a decline in living standards.

The Western Australia Party advocates for a more localised or nationalised economy. For the Western Australia Party, to pursue a more national economy is an act of service to people, whoever they are, as such an undertaking will return their wealth through increased job opportunities and it invites higher wages. With the soaring costs of living that Western Australians have experienced, with thousands of homeowners in mortgage stress and in negative equity, this is the least we can do for them.

It is no secret that before lockdown, the WA economy was already a basket case. Local manufacturing and industry was practically non-existent. The Western Australia Party wants to see a modern, smart economy with manufacturing and supply chains brought back to WA. Industry must have cheap, abundant and reliable energy to thrive. Therefore, we believe the government at both state and federal levels needs to reconsider the uranium mining ban and nuclear energy production in this country. After all, is it not a rather backward proposition to ignore the plentiful fuel in WA's own backyard, which would provide the dream of emission-free energy production and, as the years go by, at a very cheap cost, while providing the state with much needed jobs in construction, research and development and so on? Thirteen countries around the world have embraced nuclear to add to their energy mix. The fact that Australia has not holds us back from building a smart economy and global industrial and manufacturing competitiveness.

Madam President, as you know, I stand strongly for effective policing, with a core focus on restoring peace and order in our communities. My office has received calls and emails week after week for the last three years complaining about antisocial behaviour and crime in our suburbs. The solution is in restoring order to our suburbs and having adequate police on the ground who can do their job without fear of prosecution and with adequate pay and conditions, coupled with more effective sentencing and a functioning prison system.

It is vital that Western Australia has a functioning local government sector. The Western Australia Party has grave concerns about democracy, freedom of speech and the overzealous reach of property developers in planning our suburbs. Power must be given back to the people—to the councillors. They must have the confidence that they can represent ratepayers effectively. Therefore, the Western Australia Party supports abolishing the standards panel, codifying and strengthening councillors' powers to speak freely and to have access to correct information, and establishing a system of parliamentary oversight for local government.

The PRESIDENT: Member, you are not reading your speech, are you, or are you just using notes?

Hon CHARLES SMITH: Madam President, I am using notes as per normal. Thank you so much.

The PRESIDENT: Continue, please.

Hon CHARLES SMITH: The Western Australia Party supports scrapping development assessment panels, overhauling the rating system and revoking the partnerships between the government and various bodies in the local government sector, including removing the Western Australian Local Government Association's protected status in legislation.

The Western Australia Party wants to ensure that our justice system can deliver appropriate sentences for convicted criminals who have committed horrific crimes. For this to be a reality, WA must build a new secure and significant prison for those who commit murder, serious assaults and sex crimes. For those abhorrent crimes, I stand for life imprisonment with no chance of parole, and this will be a high priority of the Western Australia Party.

Finally, on behalf of the Western Australia Party, I look forward in the time we have left in this Parliament to working constructively with the government, the opposition, my colleagues on the crossbench and the Greens to create the best legislation possible in the interests of the people of Western Australia.