

MINING — EMPLOYMENT — SOUTH WEST

86. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Premier:

I certainly agree with the member for Midland, but I now ask a supplementary question. What did the Premier personally do to try to retain any of those jobs at Worsley?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Decisions on employment within individual projects are up to the company. I would hope that most of them —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I would hope that many of those workers will be able to relocate either to other mining —

Mr M.P. Murray: Where?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: To other mining projects.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Some of them may leave the industry —

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for first time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Some of them may use their trade skills and go back into the construction industry or wherever else.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think everyone in Western Australia knows there are job losses taking place in the mining industry. We have probably seen the worst of it because the industry is stabilising, but we will still get losses in individual projects. We will still get, as we have had recently, several new goldmining projects going ahead. We will always get a lot of transitional and frictional unemployment in that industry.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They're on their own.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: On their own! Remember the former Labor government's record in mining? It lost the Inpex project. It could not get Gorgon underway. It could not get Karara underway because it could not make a decision. It lost project after project because it could not make a decision.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They're on their own.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No-one in this state is on their own. We have probably seen the worst of the job losses in the mining industry. This government gets projects underway and we have the confidence of the mining and petroleum industries, something the former Labor government did not have and something that the Labor Party does not have now. It does not support uranium. It does not support fracking. It does not support some of the growth sectors. It has failed repeatedly in getting major projects underway—and, if the member for Gosnells ever becomes the environment minister, watch the flight of capital out of this state.