

STATE FINANCES — ASSET SALES

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

Sorry about the queue jumpers before who messed up your program, Mr Speaker!

The 2014–15 state budget flagged an asset privatisation plan to reduce state debt and nominated the Premier to oversee an orderly program of asset sales.

- (1) How is the Premier's design of an orderly program of asset sales progressing?
- (2) Can the Premier nominate the government-owned assets that are considered priorities for privatisation?
- (3) Does the Premier think it is appropriate to leave not only his own government agencies and their employees, but also the people of WA, in limbo about their futures and the future supply of government services?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(3) This government has been building \$7 billion to \$8 billion of new capital assets every year. In the course of that it is sensible to also look at some assets that can be transferred from public ownership into private ownership to not only raise money, which will be used principally to retire debt, but also partially help fund new assets—that is just sensible. We have yet to determine which assets will be offered up for sale, and there are some complex issues about some of those assets. The initial sales will primarily be land and I expect to be able to announce in the next few weeks which parcels of land will be put on to the market and which priority assets we will address. It can be expected that this will be an ongoing program and we expect to be able to contain the growth in debt through that process and to also fund some new investments.