

CLIVE PALMER — LEGAL ACTION

237. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Premier:

On behalf of the member for Southern River, I welcome the student executive of Caladenia Primary School in the gallery.

I refer to the reports today that Clive Palmer has commenced legal proceedings against Australia. Can the Premier advise the house of this government's response to this action?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

Today we have seen the most deplorable act of greed in Australian history. One of the richest people in Australia, Clive Palmer, now wants more money, and he is suing his country to get it. Imagine already having billions of dollars and making \$1 million to \$2 million a day from a Chinese company in Western Australia without lifting a finger, but being so rapacious that you turn around and sue your own country for \$300 billion. That is \$300 000 million. That is about \$11 500 for every Australian man, woman and child—pure greed. Clive Palmer is the greediest man in Australian history. This man once proclaimed he loved Australia, but he now claims to be a Singaporean businessman—I kid you not—in order to sue Australia. It is treacherous and traitorous conduct on a scale this country has not seen before.

I remind the house why he is doing it. It involves the Balmoral South project in the Pilbara. It was approved with conditions by the then Liberal–National government 12 years ago. But Mr Palmer did not want to adhere to those conditions, so he decided not to proceed with the project but instead took Western Australia to arbitration to seek \$30 billion in compensation. He decided he wanted to make his money through suing the Western Australian government. My government intervened in 2020. We passed laws that stopped him from potentially bankrupting Western Australia. Then Mr Palmer took us to the High Court, which unanimously ruled against him. But now, desperately and disgracefully, he has registered his company overseas. He is doing this with the sole aim of suing his own country. Mr Palmer's "Singaporean company" has filed a notice of arbitration seeking damages under international trade law. He is apparently claiming breaches of the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand free trade agreement because his company is now Singaporean.

At what point do we say enough is enough? He has exhausted all his legal avenues in Australia but cannot accept the result. It is greed. It is treachery. He is a quisling. He wants to rip \$300 billion from Australian schools, hospitals, aged care, housing, Medicare and the NDIS—from every Australian. Mr Palmer has now cemented himself in Australian history as the most appalling and selfish person our country has ever seen. We will support the commonwealth all the way in fighting this claim and never give in to Clive Palmer. Nearly all the way along this road, whilst we have fought Clive Palmer in this Parliament, we also had to fight the Liberals and Nationals, which took his side and, as we see today, that has not changed.