

MULTI-EMPLOYER BARGAINING

**740. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I refer to data from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia's snap business survey, which shows that four in 10 WA businesses would scale down operations if forced into multi-employer bargaining —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Sorry; Ministers for Finance and Health, please do not interject while a question is being asked.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** — and 92 per cent believe they would be damaged by the changes, as well as Rio Tinto Australia chief executive Kellie Parker's statement that these reforms could threaten job security and suppress wages in the long term.

- (1) What has the Premier discussed with the Prime Minister to voice the concerns of Western Australian businesses about the federal government's Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022?
- (2) What, if any, are the Premier's concerns about the effect of his federal Labor counterpart's industrial relations legislation on the job stability and long-term wages of Western Australian miners?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

(1)–(2) I think there is a lot of scaremongering going on in relation to this issue.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Is the head of Rio Tinto scaremongering?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When the Leader of the Liberal Party asked the question, I did not interrupt him.

One thing that has been apparent in recent years in the private sector is that the profit share has been very high and wages growth has been very low. Obviously, that has needed to be addressed in a range of industries across the community. That is occurring. The state government is putting up its wages significantly. We obviously had to repair the terrible deficits and debt we were left by the last Liberal–National government, which we have done in ways that other states have not been able to achieve, and we had to do some difficult things to get there. We are now putting up wages and salaries, providing bonus payments for sign on and so forth, and improving conditions significantly across the public sector. A lot of scaremongering is going on. I urge people to get back and negotiate, and to talk reasonably and rationally.