

LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

675. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier simply publish the financial modelling if he is confident that this is the best deal for our state?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I have advised the member of the findings of all these bodies, but there are commercial-in-confidence issues here. I do not object to anyone assessing it.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: But I have told the member. The Office of the Auditor General has reviewed this issue as part of its financial audit. The Department of Finance was advised that the Office of the Auditor General had made no findings relating to the lease negotiation process or the financial modelling that supported the sale and the lease-back transaction.

The member does not like housing being built in this electorate. He does not like private sector investment in Midland. I do not understand the Liberal Party these days.

Dr D.J. Honey: I don't like a bad deal for the state.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the member does not like a bad deal for the state, why did his party lose \$40 billion when it was in government? It was only \$40 billion! The Liberal Party took debt from \$4 billion to \$44 billion. That was its record. We have now got it down to \$29 billion. We are the only government in Australia paying down debt. That is our record.

In his first question, the member objected to our reservation policy for gas. Yesterday, the member objected to a building in Cottesloe. Having a building in Cottesloe actually means we get more housing. There is an issue in Western Australia: we need more housing. Every bit helps. Cottesloe is not my normal hangout, but I would imagine that most people who would buy the apartments in that building would be people who live in the vicinity who want to downsize. It is actually the residents of the area who get to sell their property to someone else who wants to go and live there, or perhaps to their children or what have you, then they downsize. They get an apartment with less space to maintain and, my goodness, they will have a nice view! The member seems to object to that. He objects to everything. The Liberal Party objects to everything! There is nothing right in Western Australia according to the Liberal Party, which probably explains why it is where it is.