

RESOURCES SECTOR — COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REFORMS

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

I refer the Premier to media reports that he will stand up for WA's resources sector, and note the widespread concerns of that sector with the commonwealth government's proposed industrial relation changes that are also alarming the general business sector.

- (1) Has the Premier written to the Prime Minister to outline the concerns about the negative impacts of the proposed federal industrial relations changes on mining in WA; and, if so, will he release the correspondence?
- (2) Did the Premier acknowledge the ramifications for other sectors, especially small business, the self-employed and casual workers?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for his acknowledgement that we stand up for the resources sector. We work with all our industry partners to make sure we get the best for Western Australia. That is a path that we are committed to and one of which we are very proud. I am informed by the Minister for Industrial Relations that the only company in Western Australia that will be impacted by those laws is, in fact, BHP, because it works through enterprise bargaining arrangements. From that perspective, I assume those changes will not impact WA as severely as other parts of Australia.

I also make the observation that, although general conversations have been brought to me about anxieties in the industrial relations area, no company has actually asked me to make representations to the federal government on this matter. That is because they believe they already have good access to the federal Labor government in relation to dialogue, but I am sure that if they need me to add my voice to their concerns about threats to productivity in the sector, we will have an opportunity to do so. As the Minister for Industrial Relations informs me, they will not impact Western Australia as they will, perhaps, other parts of Australia. From that perspective, the changes do not represent a significant threat.