

GENDER EQUITY — MINING

**812. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the recent report in *The West Australian* that only five per cent of speakers at the 2023 Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum this week were women.

- (1) Is the government satisfied with the level of gender parity in senior management and decision-making positions in the WA mining sector?
- (2) If not, what measures, if any, is the government taking to improve gender parity in the WA mining sector?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) The state government supports gender balance and transparency initiatives in mining workplaces and notes that there are opportunities to increase gender diversity in senior management in the mining sector.
- (2) Female leadership and women's economic independence are key priorities of the *Stronger together: WA's plan for gender equality*. The state government is committed to working with industry bodies in the mining sector to continue to address this issue.

Gender equity and transparency initiatives will be advanced through collaboration with industry via existing initiatives such as the Respect in Mining initiative within the mental awareness, respect and safety program. The state government will consider introducing initiatives, such as surveys and reports, to assist in improving the transparency of gender participation in the industry. At the state government's mining industry summit, Driving Respect, held on 1 August 2023, 23 of the 38 speakers—or 60 per cent—were women.