

**HANSARD 17 AUGUST 2010**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Matter of Public Interest

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton)** [3.37 pm]: One of the big questions facing us is: how did we get to the situation in which we are now? How did we get to the situation in which huge portions of the state's wealth are redistributed to the eastern states by both the Commonwealth Grants Commission and others? And it has been getting worse and worse each year. I think we now see what happens. When it comes to standing up for our state, Labor has decided that it would rather go with its Labor mates than stand up for this state. Labor is willing to give away the state's financial lifeblood to protect and support its eastern states mates. That is what it has decided to do.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order, members! Member for Cannington, if you seek the call, I will give it to you. I have given the call to the member for Riverton at this time.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** This is a time when Labor should say, "Enough is enough. It has gone too far for too long. We have to keep our revenue here." There is a whole range of other things about this tax that members opposite are refusing to acknowledge. Firstly, as the Premier argued, it is an extremely destructive and dodgy tax. It is based on ripping off Western Australian firms. It is based on ripping money out of Western Australia to transfer to the eastern states.

For every \$3.50 taken out of this state through this tax, the federal government gives \$1 back. That satisfies members opposite. For each \$3.50 in tax raised, the federal government offers \$1 back. More importantly, they are saying to us, "We will only give you infrastructure if you agree to the tax."

Unlike New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and all the other states, Western Australia has not only to pay not just for its own infrastructure, but to pay for theirs as well. That is discriminatory, but members opposite support it. That is ripping off this state, but members opposite support it.

This is the time that members opposite should stand up against it, but they do not. Why? Because their allegiance is not to the state, it is not to their electorates; it is to the federal Labor Party. That is what this is about! How could members opposite justify this tax otherwise? When the first tax came in, members opposite supported that. They quibbled around the sides, but we now know that that tax would have raised \$25 billion, largely from this state. What did members opposite say? Nothing! Members opposite were quiet.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** That was not the case.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** That was the case! Treasurer Swan agreed to it. It would have raised in the vicinity of \$25 billion. What did members opposite say? Nothing! Then the federal government revised the tax and negotiated only with the large multinationals. They excluded negotiating with Western Australian firms. They have not talked to them. They told them to nick off! They only talk to the big ones! Members opposite supported that. How could a state-based party support a commonwealth government that excluded negotiating with Western Australian firms?

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Members opposite do! Then the federal government goes out and says, "We want money from you, but we are willing to give back \$3.50 for each dollar taken." How could members opposite support that?

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** This is a like a fairytale. You make up analogies. Where are your facts?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** No, it is true! If this tax raises anything, it will raise \$7 billion from this state, and the federal government meets its promise, it will give back \$2 billion to this state. I might add that Rudd came to power in 2007 promising \$100 million a year for the Gorgon revenue.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** Never see it!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** We never see it! The federal government was going to set \$100 million aside for the Gorgon fund. We have not seen it! They were going to set money aside. Have they negotiated the fund? No! They have not funded it.

The real issue here is that we have a significant imbalance in our share of revenue. This will create a worse imbalance, and it is time to stand up against additional taxation on Western Australia. Stand up!

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Members opposite might think this is funny, but when this tax comes in and destroys our workers and affects our economies—

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** It will not!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Yes, it will when fly in, fly out workers start getting laid off in droves!

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** No, they won't.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Yes, they will! Members opposite will be held responsible for that.