



Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Labor Government out of touch with WA

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It was no big secret that the Barnett Government planned to raise iron ore royalties to help fund WA infrastructure projects, but federal Labor seem shocked and regretful that they will have to fulfil their promise to compensate miners in full, West Australian Senator Alan Eggleston said today.

“Mining companies have enjoyed cheaper royalties for years as recompense for building up mining infrastructure in the Pilbara, like major ports, railways and towns,” Senator Eggleston said.

“These concessions were made by WA Premier Sir Charles Court more than 40 years ago, and the big miners have been well aware that royalties would one day increase to meet State needs.”

Senator Eggleston said the Gillard Government’s claims of returning to surplus by 2013 were getting more and more ridiculous by the day.

“The Government is now employing standard school-yard bullying stand-over tactics to threaten WA with fewer grants and less funding, which again reinforces how out of touch they are with our State.

“A recurring problem in the Federation is the imbalance of financial power between the Federal and State Governments, so that States like ours do not have the funds to carry out their constitutional responsibilities.

“The constitution gives each State authority to tax their mineral resources, and considering the greedy slice of mining pie taken by Federal Government, Western Australia is well within its rights to increase iron ore royalties,” Senator Eggleston said.

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