



WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY

# **CHARLES SMITH MLC**

## **MEMBER FOR EAST METRO**

*Putting Western Australians First*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Offshore giants pay higher royalties or employ locals**

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Western Australia Party MP Charles Smith said Labor's 2021 Budget could be improved with increasing mining royalties for offshore mining corporations and investing in a local manufacturing industry.

The Eastern Metropolitan representative said global mining giants should pay higher taxes for investment into state infrastructure, paying down debt and putting money aside for the people of WA via a new sovereign wealth fund.

Mr Smith added that if the Government would not raise royalties, then global players must abide by a local worker quota to warrant lower taxes.

WA's current unemployment rate is at 7 per cent, after peaking at 8.7 per cent in June.

"Global mining companies extract our precious resources and often lobby the Government to import cheap foreign labour to increase their profits which already run into the billions.

"Locals are missing out on work that should by right, be theirs given the resources these multi-nationals are extracting are sourced in the workers' home state.

"If Labor is really on the people's side, they would be stipulating as a proviso that Western Australian workers be favoured in the recruitment process for these jobs," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said a failure to employ a local workers' quota should result in higher royalties paid to the state.

"Increased royalties from mining giants who continue to use foreign labour could be invested into a local manufacturing industry to make up for the jobs lost.

"A local manufacturing industry would decrease unemployment and inject much needed economic vitality into WA while decreasing our reliance on foreign supply and labour."

Mr Smith also questioned Labor about the decision to invest \$170 million into a city university campus.

"We have enough university campuses whose modus operandi is to import the entire international student population, which puts a strain on local jobs again by increasing job competition.

"How about invest that money into TAFE and trades courses in preparation for a local manufacturing industry.

"That is where the investment should be made," he said

Mr Smith said he was pleased that more investment into recruiting 800 police officers was included in the budget.

**ENDS**

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