

A hollow Government too obsessed with 'announceables'

This week in Parliament I gave my reply to the Premier's Statement for 2026. Here is an edited version.

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1 West Australians are being let down by this Government. After nearly 10 years of Labor, so many people feel like they're worse off even though they're working hard and trying to get ahead. Households are under stress. West Australians were told cost-of-living relief was this Government's top priority. We now know that was a hollow promise.

2 When the Mid-Year Review was released just two months ago, there was no new relief. No tax reform, no permanent household support

and no reduction in fees and charges. Not one serious reform to make life more affordable.

3 Never has Western Australia seen this level of wealth. Record iron ore royalties. Record GST revenue. Yet households are paying more — more in stamp duty, more for power, more for water, more for car registration, more in every essentials, with very little to show for it.

4 While household budgets shrink and families are choosing between groceries

and mortgage repayments, this Government is choosing prestige projects like a racetrack, Italian soccer matches, a rugby team and a movie studio over real cost-of-living relief.

5 According to the 2025 Small Business Conditions Report, just over 51 per cent of Western Australian small business owners are reporting high levels of stress, well above the national average of 44 per cent. They are overwhelmed, and because of that they are holding back. Why? Because every time they grow, this Government takes more.

6 Payroll tax revenue grew another 8 per cent last year alone and has surged by 88

per cent since 2017-18. That is not prosperity. That is a Government addicted to taxing jobs.

7 In almost 10 years, Labor have not built one new hospital in this State. Not one. Despite record revenues, not one new hospital. This Government can spin. It can deflect. But it cannot run from the facts. They have failed to give WA's health system the priority it deserves.

8 We are in the worst housing crisis in this State's history. This is a Government obsessed with "announceables", headlines and press releases to look like they're doing something in housing. But the dream of home ownership is

slipping away for many West Australians, especially young people. They are losing hope.

9 According to REIWA's data, last week there were 2710 properties listed for sale for Perth. This time last year it was 5031 properties. In February 2020 there were 12,642. We are going backwards.

10 The economy is simply not rewarding hard-working West Australians. We hear the Cook Labor Government boast about WA being the wealthiest State in the nation but what is the point in prosperity if the people you are here to work for are not feeling that prosperity?

Time to stop boasting and start delivering.

