

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates  
20 October 2016

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** West Australian Nationals Leader Mr Grylls

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Ketter

**QUESTION No.:** SI-44

Senator KETTER: I have questions about the proposal by the West Australian Nationals leader, Mr Grylls, to introduce a \$5 per tonne iron ore mining tax. My question is: what analysis has the department done on the impact of that proposed mining tax?

Mr B Wilson: We have only done a very preliminary analysis of the tax. It is very preliminary. We certainly have not done any analysis of the potential impact or detail of the tax. It is really looking at what the tax would represent as an increase to the costs of the companies concerned. But it certainly is not any more elaborate than that.

Senator KETTER: So you are not able to tell me what impact it might have on future investment?

Mr B Wilson: No.

Senator KETTER: What about on mining jobs in Western Australia?

Mr B Wilson: No, we did not do any analysis on that.

Senator KETTER: What about the impact that it might have on Western Australian communities?

Mr B Wilson: No, we have not done any particular analysis on that.

Senator KETTER: My next question is to the minister. Talking about Mr Grylls's proposed mining tax, could you tell me of any details of any conversations, emails, SMSes, WhatsApp messages, phone calls, correspondence or meetings between you or your staff and the Leader of the Western Australian Nationals or his staff regarding the proposed change to WA royalties in the next two months.

Senator Canavan: I have met with Mr Grylls on the issue. I am not going to go into detail of conversations that I have had with him, but suffice it to say that, whatever I have commented on in public about the tax, we also discussed that in private. But clearly I am not going to publicly start detailing meetings I have with members of other parliaments.

Senator KETTER: Have you expressed any concerns to him?

Senator Canavan: As I believe I have said in public, yes, I have grave concerns about the impact of the proposal and I do not think it is an efficient or effective way of generating revenue for the state of Western Australia. I certainly relayed that to Mr Grylls, but apart from that I will not go into any further details of the conversations or WhatsApp messages. I do not believe I have sent him a WhatsApp message, but that is about all I will say.

Senator KETTER: Given the significance of this matter, surely you could take on notice information about any emails, SMSes, phone calls, correspondence or meetings.

Senator Canavan: I will take it on notice.

Senator KETTER: Thank you—and the dates on which those conversations occurred.

Senator Canavan: Sure.

**ANSWER**

Minister Canavan met with Minister Grylls on 6 September 2016. To answer this question further is an unnecessary diversion of resources.