

## Letter to the Editor

The letters editor,

### **Plunder from regions**

It is ironic to see the WA balance of power swayed by the re-distribution of legal plunder from mining and petroleum interests. Allow me to explain.

A mining project is an invention, each one is unique. Each one is now a multi-decade red-tape gagged planning odyssey.

A royalty is the most onerous of burdens for any mining interest. It is paid whether an operation is profitable or not. It is extracted by force.

A punitive royalty can stop a mining project from ever starting, from ever educating, feeding or clothing our people.

A royalty is built upon the odd notion that the mineral is there for all. This ignores the hard won applied science, savings and toil spent in order to find, develop and mine the mineral. This is apparently easy, a job for eager fools.

Mining interests pay income, payroll, goods and services, stamp duty, and import taxes as well as these illogical punitive royalties – legal plunder.

Our elected bureaucrat's holding the balance of power are now salivating, infighting and re-budgeting over this chunk of legal plunder in order to re-distribute it to their favourites.

A regional forward thinker would abolish royalties and then reap the immediate and clear rewards of shelved and new mining projects coming on-line for regional and metropolitan constituents.

The irony is that most of the mineral royalty payments are re-distributed by the Commonwealth Grants Commission to favourites in the eastern states.

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