



# MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



**Tuesday 8 March 2011**

## **WA LABOR BEHIND THE PUSH TO SECURE WA JOBS**

Local Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti was joined today by Shadow Minister for State Development Mark McGowan to discuss the importance of the WA Jobs for WA Resources campaign.

The Australian Steel Institute, the Australian Metal Workers Union, UnionsWA and the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers, Australia have joined forces to highlight how the Barnett Government is allowing the State's big resources projects to send their skilled work offshore.

"The Barnett Government have set a new all-time low, sending skilled work offshore," she said.

"In 2009, Mr Barnett signed an agreement with Oakajee Port and Rail that will see the steel fabrication and engineering for the project done in China.

"This means many of our engineers have to go overseas for work leaving young people starting apprenticeships and traineeships without the experienced workers needed to develop their skills."

Shadow Minister for State Development Mark McGowan said Mr Barnett was not listening to local businesses and workers regarding local manufacturing jobs.

Mr McGowan said Mr Barnett should be ashamed that so much work is going offshore for local WA projects.

"The Premier's attitude shows there is a clear difference between the Liberal Government and Labor on this issue," he said.

"The hands-off approach by the Barnett Government will not secure local jobs and will lead to a serious long-term skills problem."

As part of her role in the campaign people can visit Ms Saffioti's office in Malaga and sign the petition calling on the Barnett Government to act.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March at 11am unions and steel manufacturers will march on Parliament House to demand more local content. More information can be found at [www.wajobs.org.au](http://www.wajobs.org.au)

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