



**SENATOR MATHIAS CORMANN**  
**Liberal Senator for Western Australia**

Letters to the Editor  
WA Newspapers

By fax 9482 3830

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor

Peter Warner from Rockingham suggests that worldwide demand for resources like nickel is what is driving the success of resources companies like Minara Resources and not AWAs (Letters 17/10).

He makes the point that he's only been in WA for 16 months, which is probably why he does not know the whole story of WA's current resources driven prosperity.

To take advantage of the increases in world demand and world prices for our resources we had to improve our productivity, we had to reduce our levels of industrial disputation and we had to develop a better relationship between employers and employees.

In WA, the economy has benefited from modern, flexible workplace arrangements since 1993 when the Court government first introduced individual workplace agreements (abolished by Labor in 2001). Since 1996 the Howard government has successfully reformed workplace relations nationally through a series of significant reforms like the introduction of AWAs, the critically important reforms to our waterfront, changes to unfair dismissal laws, the establishment of the Australian Building and Construction Commission and many other important reforms.

The result today is not only a thriving resources sector in WA, but a thriving national economy. Unemployment at 3.5 per cent in WA, strong growth in real wages of 21.5 per cent since 1996 (compared to the decrease of 1.8 per cent under 13 years of Labor), and industrial disputes at the lowest level since records were first kept.

In contrast, if Mr Warner had lived in WA in 2001, after the election of a Labor Government in WA, he would have witnessed firsthand the disastrous effect of Labor's IR policy in our State. Labor delivered on a union driven promise to abolish workplace agreements and the Building and Construction Industry Taskforce. The CFMEU was on a rampage across Perth within weeks, until stopped, not by the State Labor Government, but by the Howard Government initiated Cole Royal Commission, the Australian Building and Construction Commission and further workplace reform.

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Should Labor win this Federal election there would be nowhere left to hide. Union heavies like Joe MacDonald are salivating at the opportunities they can see for themselves in wall to wall Labor.

An inexperienced incoming Government made up to 70% of former union officials will no doubt deliver to the vested interests of the union movement, and that is not in the interests of the Western Australian or the national economy.

We need to continue to go for growth.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mathias Cormann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mathias Cormann  
Senator for Western Australia

17 October 2007