



House of Assembly

Extract from Hansard

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GM Holden

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (20:53): I rise in support of this motion. I do not wish to cover all the areas which my colleagues have already covered, and I thank them for the vast amount of facts and figures they have provided to ensure that we have a good debate.

When dealing with issues like this we have two choices. We can either believe in unfettered market forces to resolve all our problems or we support government intervention. As a proud social democrat I support government intervention where the markets fail or to ensure a fair and just society. Part of a fair and just society is to ensure that all in society have the ability to live a life with dignity. Access to employment, health and education are some of the important elements of living a life with dignity.

When you strip this debate of all its political posturing and rhetoric, it is about ensuring that a range of workers have greater job security and greater access to employment: greater job security to support themselves and their families; greater job security to have an income to support local small businesses through purchases they make; greater job security to be able to afford to send their children to school; and greater job security to pay off their mortgages.

While the debate has focused on the co-investment to Holden's, other businesses in the area will actually benefit from this co-investment. All those component industries which supply Holden's will also benefit.

I met with a senior executive from a competitor to Holden's earlier this week and I spoke to him about the Holden's co-investment. As a competitor I expected this executive to say, 'Where's our share of the money?' The point he made is interesting, though. He actually supports the co-investment in Holden's because it keeps the component industry alive in Australia. They also rely on component industries to ensure that they can manufacture in Australia as well.

The announcement of this co-investment has again injected new confidence into the community in the northern areas of Adelaide. Importantly, it will also ensure skills for the future. It will ensure that we have apprenticeships and traineeships for all those young people in that community. It will also ensure that we train the tradespeople for the future to

have the skills for our agenda to grow an advanced manufacturing industry in this country.

This motion before us is about people. It is about people in my electorate. It is about the importance of the Holden employer and other component industries to the people in my electorate. As an indication, my late father was also a worker at Holden's—when I was a kid we called it Holden's; maybe it was an ethnic thing, but we called it Holden's. Perhaps the people in the eastern suburbs are different.

Members interjecting:

Mr PICCOLO: At least some courtesy. I didn't interrupt you; grant me the same courtesy. I wouldn't expect that from you. Holden's gave my father an opportunity to support his family, so I welcome and support the state government's decision to make the co-investment to help secure the future of manufacturing in the north of Adelaide.

TIME EXPIRED