

ALCOA — SUPPLEMENTARY PROPERTY PURCHASE PROGRAM

157. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development:

I refer to the supplementary property purchase program and the settlement that has been reached between Alcoa of Australia Ltd and the McPherson family, who were the former operators of the Yarloop Roadhouse. Is there any further action that the government can take to assist this family, who have been deprived of a source of income, and accommodation, as consequence of the sale of the business and premises to Alcoa?

Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question; and I do have an answer. I suggest that those former ministers on the other side who were never, ever in a situation in which the answer did not turn up would be the only ones in history.

This is a matter for resolution between the McPherson family and Alcoa. The supplementary property purchase program operated in the localities of Hamel, Wagerup, Yarloop and Cookernup. Alcoa's property purchase programs apply to defined areas around the Wagerup alumina refinery, as well as areas in the towns of Hamel and Yarloop. Each scheme provides that property owners in their respective areas may sell their properties to Alcoa on certain well-publicised terms. However, neither scheme applied—or currently applies—to the purchase of businesses. The Department of Industry and Resources understands that the McPhersons leased the Yarloop Roadhouse from the property's owner, who agreed to sell the property to Alcoa under the company's so-called area B purchase scheme.