

WATER FOR FOOD PROGRAM — SOUTH WEST

97. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the minister has confirmed he is dragging his heels to commit to this transformational project why is the minister unwilling to commit and does he know or does he not care that his noncommittal is jeopardising federal funding?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

The Leader of the National Party clearly did not listen. We have been in government for eight weeks. This is a \$380 million project involving \$37 million of state money and \$140 million of commonwealth money —

Ms M.J. Davies: You don't care.

The SPEAKER: I care, Leader of the National Party, and I am calling you to order. Ask a question; listen to the answer.

Mr D.J. KELLY: As I said, there are a stack of projects about this high that the Leader of the National Party committed to in the dying days of the previous government.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: That is exactly right. The Leader of the National Party committed to them because she knew she was on the way out the door and she thought, "We need to spend as much royalties for regions money as we can so it's all committed before I get thrown out of office." This may well be a good project —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Listen to the answer and you might learn something!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the second time. It is not a talkfest. You have asked a question; listen to the answer. You might not like it, but that is the one you are getting.

Mr D.J. KELLY: As I said, since coming into government, we have spoken to the relevant state departments and the private sector proponents. We have told them we are going through a proper process before we commit to the project. We have been in contact with the federal minister. The federal minister knows where we are up to. He is a member of the National Party. I know the Leader of the National Party is probably not on talking terms with the federal party, but if she wants to help the proponents of this project, she should be saying to the federal minister that he will get an answer very promptly. Do not start rubbishing it, member, because this is just part of the mess you left behind!