

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

On motion without notice by **Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich (Minister for Local Government)**, resolved -

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 26 June 2007.

Ordinary

HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan - Minister for Local Government) [9.59 pm]: I move -

That the house do now adjourn.

Rural and Remote Education - Adjournment Debate

HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (South West) [10.00 am]: On Thursday, 7 June, in my capacity as chair of the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council, it was my pleasure to attend the annual conference of the Western Australian District High School Administrators Association. Together with the director of rural and remote education, Mr Don Boyd, we made a presentation of the formation, function and terms of reference of that particular council. A question and answer session followed, affording some 70 or so administrators the opportunity of painting a very clear picture of the various issues confronting district high schools in Western Australia.

District high school administrators are very passionate about their schools and local communities. This passion and belief in rural and remote schooling gives much comfort to parents and students alike. Despite the many difficulties faced by district high schools, these administrators are willing and able to address the many issues and challenges confronting their schools daily. They all show vision, initiative and endeavour in promoting the best interests of state education in their respective towns.

While I was at the conference, it was my pleasure to meet with Mr Luke Clatworthy, the principal of Gnowangerup District High School. In turn, Mr Clatworthy invited the RREAC executive to visit his school to see first hand how Gnowangerup was dealing with many of the issues confronting those involved in rural and remote education. Mr Boyd and I, together with the RREAC deputy chair, Wagin MLA Terry Waldron, were pleased to visit the school on Friday, 15 June. We were most impressed with the quality of leadership in the school and the willingness of all staff to tackle problems head on. It was refreshing to see the enthusiasm and active engagement by students involved in a wide variety of learning tasks. It reflected a key priority focus of the school, namely that of an inclusive, safe and stimulating learning environment. After our meeting with the school's administration team and the classroom tour, we were treated to a wholesome and enjoyable lunch prepared by the hospitality students and their teacher, Ms Fiona Davidson. I would like to mention the students involved and to thank them for their fine efforts. I refer to Wendy Anderson, Zoe-Ann Archer, Kelsey Blows, Michelle Harris, Darryl Mogg, Sasha Ritchie, Penny Squibb, Chantelle Wise, Danielle Wise and Roxanne Woods; and I wish them well in their future endeavours. I would also like to acknowledge the welcome and courtesy showed by the head girl, Megan Copeland, and the head boy, Kyle Vorst.

The RREAC executive then moved onto the Gnowangerup Training Centre to view the significant changes made to the old Gnowangerup Agricultural School instigated by Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich in late 2005 and early 2006. Under the expert guidance of the training centre manager, Mr Greg Hunt, the Gnowangerup Training Centre now provides regional training opportunities primarily satisfying demand in the 15 to 19-year-old cohort through augmentation of current training curriculum and value-adding to existing training programs. Potential usage of the centre in addition to current practices is anticipated to grow, ensuring the Gnowangerup Training Centre remains a viable and sustainable regional-use facility.

In conclusion, I simply say that education in Gnowangerup is in an excellent state, due in no small way to the professionalism and commitment of all staff, coupled with great community support. The Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council executive appreciated the opportunity to visit both Gnowangerup District High School and the Gnowangerup Training Centre. I thank all staff and students for their warm welcome and wish them well for the remainder of 2007 and beyond.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.05 pm
