

WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY — REFORM

**207. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I have a supplementary question. I refer to section 92 of the Australian Constitution —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! I want to hear the supplementary in silence; otherwise, I will call to order the first person who interjects.

**Mr I.C. BLAYNEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I refer to section 92 of the Australian Constitution that prohibits restriction of trade among states. Will the minister outline to the house how he intends to defy the Australian Constitution to ensure that no Western Australian lobsters are sold to other states and territories, or is it the case that he cannot guarantee that any lobsters will remain in Western Australia?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

I could say it is about “the vibe” or it is about Mabo or something, but I will not make that joke.

As the member for Geraldton would recall, when the Premier and I met with the industry a few weeks ago, we got a commitment that up to 315 tonnes would be made available for domestic supply. The exact wording that the Premier used was that the majority or the bulk of which would be for domestic supply. We have never guaranteed—I do not think we could guarantee—that not a single Western rock lobster would cross the border into South Australia. We have not made that guarantee, and I am not going to make that guarantee. We have to take the industry on face value that it is serious about providing greater supply to the Western Australian market. We are having discussions with the industry about how we do that, and I am sure the outcome that we come to will not contravene the Constitution.