

ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

**541. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question.

**The SPEAKER:** A supplementary question that hopefully will be heard in silence.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Why did the Premier choose not to put these significant reforms to the electorate before the election and instead use sneaky, evasive language to avoid revealing his plans to reduce regional representation in the state's Parliament?

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, leave it to the Premier, please.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I repeat again: there is no reduction. If a person lives in a regional community, their upper house representatives will go from six to 37. The regional representatives put into Parliament by the conservatives, like Hon Jim Chown, are pretty poor representatives. Instead, people will now have 37 representatives representing the entire state. That is the reality of what will occur under these changes. It is just democratic practice, as occurs in the Liberal–National run states of New South Wales and South Australia.