

WINE INDUSTRY - PALANDRI WINES

**199. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

By way of preamble, I have just read a media release that the minister issued this morning, which praises Palandri Wines for exports to the United Kingdom. In light of that welcome support for the wine industry, how does the minister reconcile that with the decision made earlier today by the government on the motion that I moved?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I have no difficulty at all in reconciling that. The Western Australian government is strongly supportive of the Western Australian wine industry. I am not quite sure of the purpose of the question, but I thank Hon Barry House for providing an opportunity to recognise this very significant sale by Palandri to an unnamed but major supermarket chain in the United Kingdom. It is a sale of 40 000 cartons of cabernet sauvignon and a further 40 000 cases of chardonnay. That is a very significant sale. It is interesting that that sale caused Palandri Wines to look far and wide to source the wine for the sale. Indeed, I understand Palandri Wines had to supply, if not all, at least a substantial portion of the chardonnay from the eastern states because it was not available in Western Australia. We often hear stories about the Western Australian wine industry being up to its gills in a glut of wine, particularly red wine. That may well be the case for some individual companies. However, the Palandri Wines sale is not a fire sale and most of the cabernet sauvignon will go on the retail market at £6.99, which is well within Palandri Wines' price scale. This sale demonstrates that for people who are capable of getting out and selling their product, the glut is not of such significance to cause us to be depressed about the future of the Western Australian wine industry. Indeed, it is a major up side and I congratulate Palandri Wines.