

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — FISHERIES STAFF

**730. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister guarantee that four out of those five compliance officers—those managers—will not be relocated to another part of the state some distance away from where they live, whether that be in Broome, Karratha, Exmouth, Jurien or Carnarvon, forcing them to move themselves and their families?

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

I can tell the member that my understanding is that they will be relocated in the same town. As I said to the member, if those staff have any concerns whatsoever with the way they have been treated throughout this process—I cannot talk to them personally, because as ministers we cannot do that; the member should know that—they should go to their union and they can raise these issues and we will deal with them. With the changes that we have made in that department, we on this side of the house have worked through all the issues that have been raised.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The interjections are there. Do they want the minister to come and talk to individual public servants about their concerns? We cannot do that, and members opposite know that. I am just saying to members opposite that there are processes in place to deal with these sorts of issues. As I said, approximately 200 DPIRD staff would not be there today had we not fixed the budget black hole that the former government left us.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Moore, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The member for Moore forgets that 400 staff were put out of the Water Corporation, 100 of them in regional WA, when the Leader of the National Party was Minister for Water. Did the member for Moore complain about that in this place? He was part of the cheer squad that sat on this side of the house and said what a great job they were doing.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Moore!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Throughout regional WA, the former government abandoned staff in the ag department.

**Mr R.S. Love:** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Moore, I call you to order for the second time. It is not a shouting match.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** It abandoned staff in the ag department; it abandoned staff in the Water Corporation —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Moore, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** When members opposite were in government, they gutted the public sector. We are rebuilding the public sector and delivering services to Western Australia.