

MOWANJUM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION–GIOVI AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIP

340. Mr B.J. GRYLLS to the Minister for Water:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is enough.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I note the minister's recent announcement that Western Australian agribusiness Giovi Agriculture has entered a new business venture with Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation. Can the minister inform the house what this partnership is about?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, do you want another rest?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. This is the result of the \$40 million investment made through royalties for regions into the Water for Food project. It is one of 11 projects under the Water for Food banner, which sits under the Seizing the Opportunity banner, and is about pumping money into expanding agriculture in Western Australia. It is about diversifying our economy and it is creating real jobs and opportunity right across the state. Members have heard me talk about this project many times. It is particularly close to my heart, and it is making an enormous difference in the not only community of Mowanjum, but also its neighbours and the broader Kimberley part of the state.

We have reached another significant milestone in that project. One of the key objectives of the trial was to ensure that we attract private investment into the trial in which we invested taxpayer dollars. It has an outstanding arrangement with Giovi Agriculture, which is a subset of Wellard. It has a long association, is a family-owned business and is a significant player in the agricultural private sector. It will bring an incredible amount of support and industry knowhow to Mowanjum as it continues to expand its business in its stand-and-feed graze model for the beef industry in the Kimberley. I congratulate Tim Macnamara from Giovi, who formed the partnership with the Mowanjum board. It has shown incredible leadership in continuing to drive outcomes and stretch that community to be the best that it can be. Every time I visit the community, I find it really inspirational to see the progress that has been made, simply because it has a different economic future to look forward to for its kids.

The other important milestone that has been reached—we were up there recently—is the formal induction of two new trainees. Another important outcome that we wanted as a part of the trial was to generate opportunities for the young people of not only Mowanjum, but also Derby. They are working very closely with employment agencies and some of the training sector. They are out there on the field and are incredibly proud to be recognised as the first inductees. They will certainly be wonderful role models for other participants who are coming up through the ranks, because some of the children at the local school in Derby are involved in a range of programs. They now see the leadership from the trainees who have been engaged as part of Water for Food. We are proud of this project. It is inspiring other organisations, pastoralists and traditional owners to take up the challenge in not only Kimberley, but the Pilbara and right across the north of our state. This state government is putting in place not only the science, but also the changes to land tenure to allow that to happen and to create better opportunities and change the future for many of those communities, without which they would have no opportunity for real employment.