

MT BARKER PROPERTIES, REVOCATION OF DESTOCKING ORDERS

1. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Primary Industry:

I refer to the minister's failure to answer the specifics of my earlier question. I will repeat the specific parts of the question that he failed to answer.

- (1) Were two destocking orders for Mt Barker properties revoked on 3 April 2000?
- (2) Were those two orders prepared less than two weeks earlier on 22 March 2000?
- (3) Why were these specific orders revoked after such a short interval?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(3) I thought I had answered the question, but to make it very clear to the member, as I understand it, it is not within my power to revoke an order. The Agriculture Protection Board makes that decision. As I have already said, I met with the chairman of the Agriculture Protection Board -

Mr Ripper: Aren't you responsible for the Agriculture Protection Board?

Mr HOUSE: Give me a chance. I met with the chairman of the Agriculture Protection Board and the senior person in Agriculture Western Australia, Rob Delane, who administers that part of the program. After much discussion and debate, and after consulting with a number of farmers and the Western Australian Farmers Federation - not everybody agreed that we should have a review - a review was put in place. As a consequence of that review, the Agriculture Protection Board took a number of steps. It operates under its own legislation, as I am sure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is well aware. Whatever decision it made, it made itself. The principles of the review have been accepted. The footrot eradication campaign is back in place. I presume that the Agriculture Protection Board and the committee that oversees footrot will do whatever needs to be done to ensure that footrot continues to be eradicated.