

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — REGIONAL AREAS

42. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. Does the Premier concede that the Minister for Education and Training is actually weakening agricultural education, not strengthening it, as stated in his platform, and is fumbling her portfolio, undermining his own platform? When will the Premier take action to reverse the cuts and sack the Minister for Education and Training?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

That is a convoluted supplementary. But in any event, the answer to the question is no. I have full confidence in the Minister for Education and Training, and I think all members of the government do. It is the case that the National Party is partly responsible for forty thousand million dollars' worth of debt in Western Australia. That is what they are responsible for.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Your legacy is the worst financial management in the history of Australia! Your legacy is shocking management!

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: At the same time as wrecking the state's finances, you managed to cut the Department of Agriculture. While you were destroying the state's finances, you were still getting rid of people out of the Department of Agriculture. Remember all the complaints from the people in agricultural science who were losing their position on your watch? That is what you did, and you know it. You did that to agriculture. So do not come in here with these mealy-mouthed words and go on about something that you gutted when you were in office.