

LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

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

I have a supplementary question. Premier, thank you very much for four minutes of successfully avoiding answering the question. I will reiterate the second part —

The SPEAKER: Member, no preamble; just a question, please.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will reiterate the second part of the question, Mr Speaker. Has the government done any modelling on the broader impact of shutting down the trade, including the effect on regional employment, and social ramifications, including mental health and family breakdown? That is within the Premier's remit.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The underlying premise of the question is that the federal opposition is going to win the election. I note when the industry shut down for a period last year that it was Minister Littleproud who did that. It was shut down for three or four months under Minister Littleproud. Any of the changes that have been made have been under a National Party minister. That is a true statement.

I am trying to work out how to weave this in. I saw a news report last night that Barnaby Joyce is coming back as the next leader of the federal National Party. If the WA Leader of the National Party is going to ask me questions about federal issues, I am going to ask her whether she supports Barnaby Joyce.

Ms M.J. Davies: No.

Mr M. McGOWAN: No!

Ms M.J. Davies: I think that position is pretty clear, Premier. Have you been living under a rock for the last 12 months?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do you think the people of New England should re-elect him?

Ms M.J. Davies: That is up to them.

Mr D.C. Nalder: You answer your question, Premier.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, how about you don't ask a question! I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is up to them! So the WA Leader of the National Party is not advocating a vote for Barnaby Joyce in New England?

Ms M.J. Davies: My position on Barnaby Joyce is completely clear, and that has been made clear on a number of occasions, Premier.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There is a massive split. The Leader of the National Party in Western Australia is not advocating a vote for Barnaby Joyce in New England! Gee-whiz. That is pretty extreme; not even backing her own member.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I want to hear the Premier.

Ms R. Saffioti: Is there a Labor candidate?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There is a Labor candidate in New England. I grew up near there. There will definitely be a Labor candidate there.

We have made our position clear on the live sheep industry on numerous occasions in this house. It was not us who closed the industry down; it was the National Party.