

DROUGHT — SOUTHERN RANGELANDS — FARMERS ACROSS BORDERS

1010. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Premier:

I refer to a letter from Esperance group Farmers Across Borders sent to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and other MPs in March, and to another one sent early last week, offering assistance to move feed to drought-affected areas in WA. Is it acceptable that the first time that Farmers Across Borders heard back from the minister was yesterday afternoon after we brought our motion to Parliament?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

One thing that I have learnt in this place is never to trust anything that the member for North West Central says—nothing. Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The way to tell that he is not telling the truth is that his lips are moving.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Can I just mention to the Nationals that when they ask a question, if it is not how they want it answered, all of you interject. I do not mind if the person who asked the question interjects, but it is a group thing. Just let the Premier have his say.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They way to tell that he is not telling the truth is that his lips are moving.

Withdrawal of Remark

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That was a serious issue to raise.

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order, member?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The member for North West Central raised a serious issue and the Premier has just accused him of being a liar. I ask him to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: He never called him a liar.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: He absolutely did, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No, he said he did not speak the truth. There is a big difference.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is that the standard you are setting?

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Nationals WA, I call you to order for the first time. I made my decision and just because you do not agree with it, does not mean to say you can get up and question it.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will investigate what the member has to say but I note that, yesterday, the member stated that there were animal welfare issues across some of the rangelands in Western Australia. His office was asked whether he could provide examples of that so we could follow them up but he has refused to get back to us.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the second time!

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the third time.