

WATER FOR FOOD PROJECT — MYALUP–WELLINGTON AND SOUTHERN FORESTS

242. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. I think I have sifted that out as a yes.

When will the proponents be notified of the minister's support and what is he doing to make sure that the state has not missed out on federal funding due to his delay in making a decision?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

As the member said, throughout this whole process we have been in constant contact with the commonwealth so it is already aware of our ongoing support. If the National Party has any friends in the party federally—I know that relations there are often strained—it should —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I was asked a question. I am trying to answer it, but all I am getting is interjections. We are doing what we can to support those two projects in particular. As to when an announcement will be made —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.J. KELLY: One of the interesting decisions that we have also made in respect of Water for Food is that I will no longer be the lead minister for that project; it will in fact be the Minister for Agriculture and Food. In opposition, I always thought it was called the Water for Food program. It was basically a program —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, you have this irritating thing where your side asks a question and you answer for everyone. You do not know all the answers. I know the answer—I call you to order for the second time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The Water for Food program was a program to promote agriculture in Western Australia, but the Minister for Agriculture and Food under the previous government had no say in it. The only reason I can figure out and the only reason I can determine why is that the Minister for Agriculture and Food was not a member of the National Party. There was a program to promote agriculture in Western Australia and the Minister for Agriculture and Food was completely sidelined. The two ministers who had responsibility were the Minister for Water and the Minister for Regional Development, who both happened to be members of the National Party.

The SPEAKER: Minister, through the Chair; please.

Mr D.J. KELLY: So the Water for —

The SPEAKER: I think that is enough.