

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE CUNDERDIN

343. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. Why do the minister and the Treasurer continue to reject business cases that have been put forward by the Department of Education for these essential works when other funds are being prioritised?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

Why does one develop a business case? One develops a business case to put an argument. Just because someone develops a business case does not mean it will be approved. We are in such a strong financial position because we take choices, we prioritise, and we determine year in year out through the budget process what we will fund for that year and into the future. That is what happens. There are many choices to be made, as the member would know from basic economics 100 —

Ms M.J. Davies: Sharpen up, minister!

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: As the member would know from basic economics 100, there is unlimited demand and limited supply. That is why we have to make choices, and we have made the choice that we have made in the budget. I stand by the \$6.4 billion investment in education, which is much more than that the former government ever delivered in its time.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.