

CAMP SCHOOLS — NON-GOVERNMENT OPERATOR

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

I refer to the privatisation of six camp schools.

- (1) How many Department of Education staff will be impacted by the government's decision to privatise the six camp schools?
- (2) Have all staff been offered redundancies?
- (3) If yes to (2), how many have been accepted to date?
- (4) Have the costs associated with all the redundancies been accounted for in the \$3 million of savings that the government says will be generated?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the Leader of the Nationals for the question.

- (1)–(4) Obviously, we are organising for a non-government organisation, Fairbridge, to run the six camp schools, including one at Point Peron in my electorate. When the Leader of the National Party says that it is not impacting any Labor electorates, which I have heard her allege, it is in my electorate. Just on that matter, I do not think she was here, but the National Party was also saying that the works to be conducted at Moora Residential College would cost only \$500 000. Does the Leader of the National Party remember saying that it would cost only \$500 000? The National Party was out there with signs saying it. The federal government thinks it is \$8.7 million—just so members know.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They were wrong there by a factor of only about 17.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The National Party and all the yelling remind me of *Call of the Reed Warbler*. I have found a quote here that reminds me of the National Party. I quote from page 275 —

Mist rose off the rehydrated lower country, but most impressive of all was a cacophony of birdsong. It was dominated by the loudest combined chorusing of magpies that I had ever heard: all seemingly competing with one another.

Point of Order

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Roe, your own leader is on her feet.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: What relevance does the book that the Premier is referring to have to the question that I asked on camp schools?

The SPEAKER: I know Collingwood is playing at the weekend, but it just sounded like a flock of magpies!

I should have done this yesterday. If someone brings a book into the chamber and quotes from it, they have to seek the permission of the Speaker. The member for Moore and the Premier brought in that book. In the future, I will adhere to that rule. I am sure that the Premier is going to get on to the answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will. The relevance was that the Leader of the National Party's member asked me about it yesterday. The Leader of the National Party was not here, but her member asked me about that.

The staff at the camps were offered an arrangement under the voluntary targeted separation scheme, so they were offered that. I understand, although I would probably have to check this, that there is the opportunity for further redundancies for those staff and, of course, because they work for the education department, they can be offered a transfer to another location.