

ELECTORAL ENROLMENT — PILBARA

**171. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Electoral Affairs:**

I ask a supplementary question. This matter was raised with the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner on 8 May and with the minister over a week ago. Why is the minister still unable to provide an answer to the house; and what has the minister done to assure himself that there was nothing untoward in the statistics that were outlined in the question for the Pilbara?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

As the member just highlighted, I do not control the Electoral Commissioner. If the member has met with the Electoral Commissioner on 8 May, this is the first occasion that I am aware of that. The Electoral Commissioner is an independent office holder, and the idea that I would tell him what to do is ridiculous. There is no—other than when I ask him to do a task —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** What have you done to assure yourself that that anomaly—that discrepancy—is nothing untoward?

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

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** There is no anomaly. This is the problem that the Leader of the National Party has. Every single person who voted in the election was an eligible voter.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for North West Central to order for the first time and the member for Warren—Blackwood for the second time.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I make it clear: I am not aware of any allegation of impropriety. If any member has any suggestion of impropriety, they should refer it to a competent authority. I am the minister. I am a politician. The idea that I would interfere in the construction of the electoral roll is a ridiculous question. If there is any suggestion of illegal or improper conduct, it should be referred to a competent authority. But I am not aware of any allegation of illegal or improper conduct in respect of the ballot in the Pilbara or any other electorate in the state.