

GRAIN MARKETING REPEAL BILL 2010

Second Reading

Resumed from 10 March.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [4.39 pm]: The opposition supports the Grain Marketing Repeal Bill 2010 and will not seek to amend it. I have not had anybody from the industry either lobbying me or speaking to me about their objection to this legislation, although there has been commentary in the rural press about whether it is the right or wrong thing to do. That is always the case when legislation is either amended or repealed. Time will tell the story.

The main issue at the moment is the low grain prices. Discussion is around hedging or averaging out the price to some degree, as well as grain storage problems. Previously people were able to store their grain off site, now it must be stored on the farm. These issues are raised time and again. With those comments, the opposition supports this bill.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Blackwood–Stirling — Minister for Agriculture and Food) [4.40 pm] — in reply: I thank the opposition for its support of the Grain Marketing Repeal Bill 2010. The main point of this legislation is that from 23 October last year, through regulation, I de-prescribed the grains that came under the Grain Marketing Act 2002. Therefore, going into the 2009 harvest a regulatory system over the coarse grains of barley, lupin and canola was not in place. I have received only one piece of formal correspondence on this issue from industry. My colleagues have received very little, if any, feedback from the rural community that the government has made the wrong decision.

In the context of the shift at a federal level from the single desk marketing of wheat this bill simply aligns what is happening in Western Australia around those three prescribed grains that came under the Grain Marketing Act. The government made the right decision. Hence, the final step is to actually repeal the bill, given that the grains have been de-prescribed. As the government has not received any negative feedback on this legislation, the step it is now taking is to repeal the bill and that is the appropriate step to take to tidy up this issue.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr D.T. Redman (Minister for Agriculture and Food)**, and transmitted to the Council.