

STATE ECONOMY — MIGRATION

552. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Training:

I have a supplementary question. Can I therefore take it that the minister agrees with the Prime Minister's decision to slash the state's nominated migration program?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I did not say anything of the sort, and I think the member knows that. I said that we have sent a very clear message to the federal government. We are doing a lot in the training effort, and a lot of that is done cooperatively with the federal government. We appreciate that cooperation. The other thing I have said publicly and privately to the ministers to whom I referred, including the Prime Minister, is that we have demand now for skilled workers and we have requested that the federal government revisit that decision. The Premier has done that formally by correspondence and I backed that up in the conversations I had. I am confident that they heard that message while they were here. We will continue to work through those issues. I reiterate that I took them at their word when they said that they inherited a dysfunctional processing system from the previous government and that they are trying to work through that, but we do need to send a message to our overseas markets that we want skilled migrants to come here.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms S.F. McGURK: We will continue to work to overcome those issues. We have been very clear in our message to the federal government.