

HON DARREN WEST — COMMENTS

Statement

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.42 pm]: I feel compelled to respond to Hon Darren West's earlier explanation; it is his absolute right to provide an explanation to what were, in effect, two questions during debate on a motion moved earlier today. I took some offence at the member's statement about me with regard to the Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Act 2006. Just to set the record straight, my understanding of that act is that if one is recorded without one's knowledge, it is illegal. In this case, the member stated that he left a message on a phone in the full knowledge that it was a message he was leaving. If he has an issue with that message or how it has been disseminated—to whom I do not know—the fact is that he should take the matter up with the person who received the message. As in *Hamlet*, the member doth protest too much, because he gave 10 minutes of explanation on something that was really just two innocent questions that were confirmed by the National Party, if members want to look at *Hansard*. All I was doing was asking questions with no intention of causing any sort of offence to the member involved.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! Order! It is not an acceptable tactic or practice in this house to try to drown out a member on his feet by continuous and multiple interjections. That is not acceptable.

Hon JIM CHOWN: I am more than happy to accept the honourable member's explanation, apart from a couple of statements he made during his address.