

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — RELATIONSHIP WITH WAFARMERS

581. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I have a supplementary question. I would certainly like members to see this article I am holding. Is it not the job of the National Party and the minister to support, not hinder, farmers?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I formally call you to order for the second time today. I do not think the plane leaves until Saturday!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I thought the tenor of the member for Collie–Preston’s question referred to leadership. He is quite right; it is important for a minister to listen to his constituency, which I do. But I believe I have taken a number of leadership decisions —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, you had the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. That does not automatically entitle you to continually interject. I thought you might be interested in the answer the minister was providing. Perhaps not. I formally call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is about leadership. I believe this government is making good leadership decisions in agriculture. I will always accept a critique from any group about decisions we make. I also maintain that if I cannot defend or support my decisions, I should not be making them. I believe my record and the record of the Liberal–National government on agriculture stands.