

ELECTORAL REFORM, GREENS' ADVERTISEMENT

949. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the minister representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to an advertisement placed by the Greens (WA) in last week's edition of *Farm Weekly* claiming its position had saved eight seats in the upper House from being transferred to the metropolitan area. During the third reading of the Electoral Amendment Bill, the Minister for Electoral Affairs said that the status quo would be maintained in the upper House.

- (1) Was it the Government's intention to take eight upper House seats from regional and rural Western Australia?
- (2) If so, at what stage was a deal negotiated with the Greens (WA)?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1) The Electoral Amendment Bill 2001, as introduced by the Government, did not alter the electoral regions in the Legislative Council. Therefore, the Bill as introduced did not alter the status quo in the upper House.
- (2) Not applicable.