

PETERS ICE CREAM FACTORY — JOB LOSSES

833. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the recent sale of the Peters and other icecream brands by Fonterra, and ask:

- (1) Has the Minister met with Fonterra representatives to discuss the implications of this sale on milk producers?
- (2) Has the Minister met with Fonterra representatives to discuss the future of Fonterra's remaining Balcatta and Brunswick operations and sought assurances that will safeguard the jobs of workers at these facilities?
- (3) If no to (1) or (2) why not?
- (4) If no to (1) or (2), has the Minister sought a meeting with Fonterra to discuss these matters?
- (5) If no to (4) will the Minister seek a meeting with Fonterra representatives to seek assurances that will safeguard the future of contracts to supply milk to the Brunswick and Balcatta facilities and safeguard jobs in Western Australia, or is it the Minister's intention not to act on this matter?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1)-(3) My office has been in contact with Fonterra regarding their future in the Western Australian dairy industry and issues faced more broadly by the WA dairy industry. This includes a telephone discussion between myself and a Fonterra executive on the day of (29 April) but prior to the announcement of the sale of the ice-cream component of their Western Australian business. This discussion included but was not limited to the implications of the sale on producers, the future of the Balcatta and Brunswick sites, and the impact on workers.
- (4)-(5) Further discussions are planned in the near future.