

BUREKUP — RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

772. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to community discontent over the proposed abattoir expansion in the Avon Valley and the subsequent Supreme Court action, and also to the proposed Burekup residential development.

- (1) Does the minister stand by the proposal to build an agrifood processing plant that includes an abattoir at Burekup?
- (2) If so, is the minister aware that the South West Development Commission, through the greater Bunbury region scheme, plans to build a new residential area at Burekup that will be within two kilometres of the proposed agrifood precinct?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (1)–(2) I am aware that the South West Development Commission is leading a process looking to identify a processing precinct for agricultural produce. This is a contentious issue because, with the very strong growth of the West Australian economy, there is a need for us to find more places for people to live. That is a good thing and a positive thing for the state. I recently saw some figures in *The West Australian* that the population growth in Western Australia is currently 2.2 per cent. If the population continues to grow at 2.2 per cent out to 2050, the Western Australian population will be 5.4 million people—that is more than a doubling of the population by 2050 if we maintain our current population growth.

That leads to a range of challenges. The member identified the one currently before the courts—that is, Linley Valley and the concern about the lifestyle village at El Caballo Blanco. That is really interesting. I am the local member for the area and have actually given my support to the lifestyle village. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has a different view from that. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has been very keen to protect the agricultural production in that area and is concerned about urban encroachment.

Again, I think this is a healthy debate to be had in Western Australia, about the orderly growth and development of our state. I think that those types of issues will regularly arise. I understand that there is a process to go through. The lifestyle village proponent has recently gone to court and has, I think, had a small win. Again, that matter still has to play out.

With regard to the precinct at Burekup, I am not as aware of the issues surrounding that. I would be happy for the member to make his information available to me so that I can consider it as well.