

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — REDUNDANCIES

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

I have a supplementary question. Now that the minister has stripped around 140 jobs from country towns, what is he going to do to help towns like Manjimup, Katanning and Collie after these reductions in jobs?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

The member for Collie–Preston got the information wrong in the first question. The inference from the question is that there is a stripping out of jobs and not a building of capacity. We are modernising the agency to deliver to an agricultural sector that demands a contemporary government agency. We are taking that step.

Mr M.P. Murray: What about the jobs?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We are also advertising presently—the member is quite right—to get a skill set that delivers to a contemporary industry from a contemporary organisation.