

## **DOWERIN MACHINERY FIELD DAYS**

### *Statement*

**HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.53 pm]: I will be very brief because I want to give everyone the opportunity to speak. For the last three days, we have had the agricultural extravaganza that is the Dowerin Machinery Field Days for 2023.

I say three days because on Tuesday, we had the second annual Dowerin downtown lunch, which brings agribusiness and WA's corporate sector into the same room at Crown Perth. We had some fantastic speakers, including Craig James from the Commonwealth Bank, the head of John Deere Australia and the fabulous Rebecca Tomkinson from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, who all gave their insights on how the agricultural and corporate worlds can work together better.

Agriculture is the second biggest industry in Western Australia. I have said this many times, but there has never been a better time to be in the agricultural sector. The state is having a very mixed season this year; some farmers are having very well above average seasons, and some are having well below average seasons, unfortunately.

The Dowerin Machinery Field Days shone through over the last two days. There was something for everything at the field days, with 100 acres of displays. Whether people were there to buy or to catch up with people they see only once a year, the field days were all important. We again had the WA Labor stand there. It was great to have John Carey, the Minister for Housing, spend part of his day at Dowerin yesterday. I add that the Deputy Premier, Hon Rita Saffioti, herself the daughter of an orchardist in the hills, was at the Dowerin downtown event. Of course, the federal agriculture minister, Hon Murray Watt, presented the event and outlined the commonwealth government's vision for agriculture in regional Western Australia. It was a great two days. Unfortunately, I could not be there today because of my duties at Parliament, but I want to give a shout-out to my dedicated staff, Dan and Lisa, for holding the fort, and to everyone who came and visited our tent and got involved in what we were doing. We have a good story to tell in the regions and it was great to be at the Dowerin field days. I give a special shout-out to Josh Ward and his committee and Danielle Green and all the staff, as well as the hundreds of volunteers who help to make the event possible each year. I look forward to next year's event.