

MURESK INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE — COWAN REPORT

504. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question: why is the Minister for Agriculture and Food launching an information brochure to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture when it is possible that Muresk Institute may be closed and the agricultural scholarships abandoned?

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I am unable to hear the question from the member for Collie–Preston because of the noise from backbenchers opposite.

The SPEAKER: Although you have not raised a particular point of order, member for Midland, I will agree with you. Member for Vasse, I am formally going to call you to order for the first time today. Members on both sides, whether you are asking the question or providing an answer, might I suggest to you that you respect people on both sides of this house; otherwise, we will not get through question time and we will not get through questions. I have given the call to the member for Collie–Preston for a supplementary question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I ask the minister, with respect: why is the Minister for Agriculture and Food launching an information brochure to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture when it is possible that Muresk Institute may be closed and the agricultural scholarships abandoned.

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

I am delighted that the Minister for Agriculture and Food is encouraging young people and others to be involved in agriculture as a career. It is exactly what he should be doing. It is exactly what the Cowan report said we need—that is, for young people to consider agriculture as a career.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I can tell the house that I have met on a number of occasions the vice-chancellor of Curtin University of Technology about this issue. I have had a meeting with the Premier and the chancellor and the vice-chancellor of that university to discuss the issue. I can inform the house that Muresk will come back from Curtin University, which has the management order over the property, to government and will indeed continue to be used for agricultural education.