

MINISTER FOR PEEL AND THE SOUTH WEST, VISIT TO SOUTH WEST

1106. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Peel and the South West:

Will the Minister for Peel and the South West outline any highlights of his recent visit to the south west? I was glad to see him there.

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for Collie for the assistance he gave me during my visit.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I also thank a member of the upper House, Hon Adele Farina.

Mr J.L. Bradshaw interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Murray-Wellington!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I accept the interjection from the member across the Chamber. The main reason we visit the south west is to get positive reactions, which rarely happens when I am with the member for Murray-Wellington.

I met a range of groups, including local governments and community organisations, all of whom conveyed very positive, strong and exciting messages about the south west.

Mr J.L. Bradshaw: You are a disgrace as a minister. You don't even have the decency to carry out the protocol of past governments.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Murray-Wellington to order twice; once for interjecting and once for speaking while I was on my feet.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I pay a compliment to the mining companies in and around the area for the magnificent redevelopment that has been undertaken at the five lakes project, where open-cut mines, that were left to fend for themselves in the past, have been rejuvenated. It is good to see some of the very positive programs that have been carried out, including aquaculture programs and various others. I urge all members to visit the area.

Recently, I had a discussion on road safety with the member for Carine; I urged her to visit the Collie motorplex. This week the Government obtained permission from the Environmental Protection Authority to develop that project. I encouraged the member to see the terrific work on road safety issues with young people that is being done there. That was a positive and unheralded issue. I urge all members to visit the south west. In particular, I urge members to visit the area if they want to deal with young people in a positive way, rather than run around and tell the schools there no money for their processes. Members would be well advised to see the positive things that are being done.

It was also very worthwhile meeting with the small business groups in Bunbury and those people involved with the development of the port of Bunbury. I was very pleased to see what is going on there. I was very pleased with the positive initiatives that are being implemented in the timber industry. The general feeling there was one of excitement for the future potential of the area. It was very pleasing to meet a group of community and business people who regard that the area as a great place in which to live.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Did you talk to the timber workers?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I did talk to timber workers. They are now seeing and saying how much they had been let down by members on the other side of the House, particularly with regard to the redevelopment of the timber industry in that area. They have seen how far the Gallop-led Labor Government -

Mr C.J. Barnett: Could you keep visiting marginal seats for us!

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: They have seen how the federal members of that area have let them down. Yet again, as the Attorney General pointed out a little while ago in this House, members on the other side of the House go to great lengths to talk down the State. Western Australia is now the best performing State in the country. Members opposite cannot see it and, more importantly, they cannot say it. I thank the member for Collie for his support for his electorate because he is positive about what happens there and he knows it is one of best parts of the State.

Mr R.F. Johnson interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Hillarys to order for the second time.

