

KATANNING SALEYARDS — PRIVATISATION

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

As a supplementary question, how will the minister ensure the public's confidence in this tender process?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

There has been no decision yet for any tender process. That is the first point. The member talks about a tender process that is non-existent. The second point is that the minister will make a decision and take it to cabinet, and then cabinet will make the final decision. The member is clutching at straws in drawing links to a conflict of interest with my chief of staff, who worked in the Deputy Prime Minister's office six years ago and since then has worked with the National Farmers Federation, over a decision that has not even been made yet. It will be my decision, with the support of cabinet. Again, those decisions have not been made and so there is no conflict of interest.