

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Venning:

That this house—

- (a) notes the Cole report and is dismayed by the culture and resultant performance of AWB Ltd and accepts the inevitability of changes to wheat marketing; and
- (b) strongly supports the notion that wheat growers are not disadvantaged and that the benefits of orderly single desk marketing are maintained and not lost in the change process.

(Continued from 7 December. Page 1569.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): I rise today to make a contribution on the wheat marketing report.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Will everyone please be silent and we might deal with this in a half a minute.

Mr Venning interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Including you, member for Schubert.

Mr PEDERICK: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As we are well aware, there has been an upset in the wheat marketing situation with the way the AWB handled the situation in Iraq and, in the process, we have had the three sisters arrangement set up whereby three companies, including the ABB, have taken over some of the export wheat marketing arrangements. As we have seen in this house only yesterday, the barley export market was deregulated in South Australia. I certainly move that way, and everyone knows what I said in my speech.

However, I have had different thoughts on wheat marketing. I think what has happened with the Iraq arrangements has exacerbated the situation, and I think we may lose the single desk arrangements for wheat. If that does occur—and this is a national single desk, so I think it is different to a state-run single desk—we need to ensure that farmers can get the best outcomes. So, at the end of the day, we have to make sure that our farmers get the best outcomes.

Motion carried.