

Estimates – 13/10/10

Agriculture – 13 Oct 2010 - introduction

Minister Michael O'Brien: ... I conclude my opening statement by reiterating that the government recognises the contribution that our primary industries make to the state's economy and wellbeing and that PIRSA's role in supporting this sector remains vital. This commitment is demonstrated by over \$225 million being spent on agriculture, food and fisheries programs in 2010-11.

Mr PEDERICK: I am a little amazed at the final comment of the minister that the government and the Labor Party support primary industries when, even in his opening remarks, I could not hear much, if any, good news. All I heard was cuts to services, cuts to staff and cuts to programs. I think it shows the arrogance with which the government treats the regional areas of this state. It thinks the only votes that matter are between Gepps Cross and Glen Osmond. The minister probably respects his vote in Napier, but I struggle to see why primary industries has taken such a burden—\$20 million in cuts every year for the next four years out of a \$133 million budget is absolutely outrageous.

I am a firm supporter of minerals as far as the primary industries and resources sectors are concerned, but it seems that the primary industries sector is taking the load for both sectors of PIRSA. I repeat: I am a firm supporter of minerals as well, and I just cannot understand why this government treats primary industries with such disdain. I hope that I get the opportunity to question a lot of the budget initiatives today.