

MURESK INSTITUTE — DIPLOMA OF AGRICULTURE

**723. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Minister for Education and Training:**

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the McGowan government will, in December 2020, discontinue South Regional TAFE's flagship Diploma of Agriculture program at Muresk Institute farm and hand currently enrolled students over to a private New South Wales-based online learning centre?
- (2) If yes to (1), was this decision made after the South Regional TAFE diploma semester 2 students enrolled and commenced their July study program?
- (3) If yes to (1), will this affect students' ability to complete their qualification in WA?
- (4) Can the minister guarantee that students who are forced to transition to an interstate provider will not pay more for their qualification?
- (5) Why was a New South Wales-based private online provider selected over a Western Australian-based online provider?
- (6) How does this change align with the government's stated intention to focus on improving agricultural skills in WA and increase funding for TAFE in WA?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Diploma of Agriculture delivered by South Regional TAFE at Muresk is not being discontinued.
- (2)–(6) Not applicable, but if the member would like, I am happy to arrange either a briefing on what Muresk is offering, because it is fantastic, or what South Metropolitan TAFE is offering as well.