

ENVIRONMENT AWARDS WA — CANCELLATION

388. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

As a supplementary question, is this not just another example of this government's denial of the importance of community effort in environmental conservation?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

Not at all. I think this is another example of the opposition struggling to realise economic realities and the fact that money does not grow on trees.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Did Dixie put that out?

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time. Nobody has a hope of hearing the minister and Hansard has to record it.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I have not for a second said that these awards have been cancelled. The member said that. I reiterate that they have been postponed for the time being. We will relook at the format and do it in a more appropriate and affordable manner. I want to place on the record my appreciation for the significant work done by people in the environmental area within both industry and the community. We are dealing particularly with volunteers. I do not think that the government spending \$100 000 on one dinner is a good use of money in this area. That is why we are going to review it and we will find a better way to do it. I think the member will find that the community will support that.