

POTATO MARKETING CORPORATION — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

422. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

It was incredibly disappointing news from the federal government. Those two south west Water for Food projects are absolutely worthwhile. I worked hard on them myself. I advocated strongly for them and we are very disappointed on this side of the house to see that funding will not come forward. The projects are well worthwhile, as the minister's government recognised, which is why it backed them. They were started by the former government.

The PRESIDENT: Member, do you have a question?

Hon COLIN HOLT: I am coming to my question now. There is a long preamble; I apologise.

I refer to the minister's answer yesterday to question without notice 395 and to her ministerial statement this morning on the deed of distribution sent to potato growers regarding funds going back to the growers. I really appreciate the efforts to clarify what is probably a very ambiguous letter. If the agreement is signed, does it mean the growers will be unable to pursue further legal action in the Potato Marketing Corporation proceedings?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

Growers would be unable to take further action against the state government but it would not preclude them taking action against any other parties that are not the state government or a state government entity. As I have said in interviews today, it has never been raised with me that the prospect of taking legal action against the state government over this matter was seriously entertained.