

AGRICULTURE BIOSECURITY

Motion

HON KEN TRAVERS (North Metropolitan) [10.17 am] — without notice: I move —

That this House expresses its concern at the failure of the Barnett Government to properly manage agriculture biosecurity issues in Western Australia and in particular its failure to —

- (a) fund and implement a proper area-wide management plan for Mediterranean fruit fly in Perth hills and other high-risk areas; and
- (b) protect Western Australian grapegrowers from disease by allowing imported grapes.

I was once a customs officer, as many members know, as was Hon Simon O'Brien. I always felt that one of the most important tasks we had was to protect the biosecurity of Western Australia to prevent disease and pests coming into Western Australia. It is still my view that we are in a unique position in the world in that we are relatively disease and pest free. Unfortunately, over the years some pests and diseases have come into Western Australia and there is a need for us to manage those when they arrive. Today I want to raise issues that have come to my attention as the shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food, and a number of my colleagues do as well. It is my intention to particularly focus on the issues regarding the orchardists in our Perth hills region and the threat that Mediterranean fruit fly presents to their very existence and ability to provide high-quality fruit to the Western Australian market. It is an issue that relates to our food security and to what has been a longstanding traditional industry that provides some \$40 million of produce at farm gate. Some 80 per cent of the fruit that goes through Canning Vale market is provided by the people who are here today in the public gallery to listen to this debate. Also, a number of my colleagues want to talk about the issues that relate to grape growing, the decision about a year ago to allow the importation of grapes into Western Australia and the potential risk that poses to grapegrowers, particularly in the Swan Valley, and how they have demonstrated that there is a real risk to their industry from red blotch as a result of that decision by both federal and state governments. Regarding the issues of orchardists in the hills, Mediterranean fruit fly has been trouble now for some 80 or 90 years. One great tool that has been available to the orchardists has been a chemical called fenthion, which has been a major weapon in fighting the scourge of fruit fly. For the benefit of members I have brought in pictures that show the damage that fruit fly can do to fruits and crops. If orchardists lose a significant amount of their crops—as members can imagine, any orchardist has a set of fixed costs—it actually attacks the very heart of their profitability. There is no doubt that fruit fly will destroy the profitability and future of orchardists in the hills. I am happy to table or share the photos with members so that they can see the real damage done and the impact it has on growers in those important regions.

Two years ago, I think, a decision was made to ban fenthion. As a result of action by groups like the Hills Orchard Improvement Group, a stay of execution of the complete removal of that chemical as a part of their management tools has been achieved. But there is no doubt that that tool will eventually be no longer available to those orchardists, and they will, I am sure, seek to maintain that for as long as possible as a last resort for when there are significant outbreaks. Obviously, an alternative strategy is required to be put in place until other chemicals can be found to replace fenthion. One of the reasons fenthion is so crucial in the management of the issues is that it kills the larvae, which a lot of the other chemicals do not.

What is actually required is area-wide management, so that the industry can be worked with to ensure that strategies are in place to prevent the outbreak of fruit fly. A whole range of issues come into area-wide management, and part of it is the need for the release of sterile fruit flies, which is a very effective tool in controlling their spread. Interestingly, at various times the Western Australian agriculture department has arguably been the leader in some of that technology and has exported sterile fruit flies to places like South Australia, but we have not seen a program for the development and release of sterile fruit flies in the Western Australian environment.

This issue particularly relates to the hills because it is probably the major fruit-growing area in close proximity to the metropolitan area. There are a number of other small areas like Jarrahdale and the like, and of course a number of areas in the south west have fruit fly. Thankfully, they do not have the same prevalence of fruit fly at this stage as the Perth metropolitan area. A number of factors contribute to the problems unique to Perth. The first is obviously the close proximity to urban areas and the number of fruit trees in backyards within the Perth metropolitan area. If those trees are not maintained, baited and fruit fly-controlled, they can become the source of a fruit fly outbreak. Within the hills area property prices and the move towards lifestyle blocks has really put pressure on a number of traditional Western Australian fruit-growing areas. I recently had the opportunity to tour a number of the orchards in the area with members of the Hills Orchardist Improvement Group. I saw a very successful, operating orchard employing all the sorts of strategies one would expect of an orchardist in terms of

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managing fruit fly, baiting and doing their best to ensure the protection of their crop, but sitting alongside that same orchard is a property that has been sold and is likely to be either subdivided or developed into a lifestyle property. On those properties there are abandoned orchards; those abandoned orchards become another source of fruit fly outbreak. In many cases the orchardists are taking it upon themselves to try to work with those neighbours on those abandoned orchards to put in place strategies to protect their own industry.

The industry cannot do the task on its own. It needs the government of Western Australia to step up and provide leadership, funding and sterile fruit flies. I accept that one year ago the minister had to take over—it is probably an appropriate analogy—a basket case of a department. I think the minister sat on the committee that looked into the proposed Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act in 2007; that legislation was passed in this place, yet it languished for five years under the minister's predecessor. That act is one of the major tools through which area-wide management can be developed. I acknowledge that the minister came into a situation of the department having had its funding slashed in the biosecurity area and the previous minister having failed to act in implementing the BAM act, but it has now been a year and I urge the minister to ensure that his agency works with the industry to find the solutions and the money. That needs to happen not in one year or two years; we need to find that funding to assist these orchardists with area-wide management today. There needs to be education campaigns and the inspection of abandoned orchards; we need all the tools available to us and the industry to ensure that by the next growing season there is a proper area-wide management plan. I know that there is currently a trial at Jarrahdale, but it is very small-scale and we need to see that rapidly expanded and resourced. From the answers to questions I have asked in this place, I think there is only one staff member in the department for one day a week allocated to this role. I think this is an area the government needs to prioritise.

I will make the offer now, minister: in the public gallery are a number of orchardists who have come in to listen to this debate today. They are more than happy to meet with the minister after the debate, and, for that matter, any of my colleagues in the house today, so that the minister can discuss with them the issues they are facing and how we not just as a government but as a Parliament can work with them to actually ensure that we maintain their industry. It is an industry that has served Western Australia well, but it is now under real pressure and threat as a result of the issues outlined.

I hope the minister recognises that this is an incredibly serious problem. We know that the industry, just because of some of those pressures with respect to land value and the like, has declined. There used to be 324 orchards in the hills area; we are now down to 95. Significant volumes of produce used to be exported from Western Australia; that has slowly declined. Areas of the Perth metropolitan area once had orchards, but they have now completely disappeared. I do not want to see the remaining orchardists driven out not because of poor practices or not being good orchardists, but simply because they are not getting the assistance they deserve from the government. Minister, they are more than willing to work with the government. They understand that they have a role to play in this, but the government needs to do its fair share in supporting this great Western Australian industry to survive.

As I say, we were very lucky that although there was a lot of damage done—I have shown the photos; there are some examples of fruit available to show members the damage done by fruit flies—this season, because of a range of weather conditions and the like, there were no significant outbreaks, but a real concern exists that there will be going forward. Because these people live on the peri-urban areas of Perth, they are in close proximity to residential areas, and we need strong education campaigns, working with local government in fact, to ensure that the other areas around there do not increase the risk to the industry.

The other area covered by the motion I moved today relates to table grapes being imported into Western Australia, and I will say a couple of words on that. About a year ago the government reversed a decision to ban the importation of table grapes into Western Australia. The table grape-growers were extremely concerned about that, and the advice given by both the federal and state departments at the time was that they did not see it as a risk. A number of those growers, through their own efforts and resources, have worked very hard to establish that there is a real risk to the grape growing industry in Western Australia as a result of that importation. This is one of those areas in which we need to take the precautionary principle: unless it is proven not to be a risk, we should make all efforts to prevent it. We do not know exactly how diseases such as red blotch are passed on, but as a result of some of the research carried out by those growers, we know how it is carried. I again urge the Minister for Agriculture and Food to do what he can to reverse that decision until there is absolutely no doubt that there is no risk to Western Australian growers.

I want to pay tribute to one of my colleagues in the other place who has also raised this matter, Rita Saffioti, who, interestingly, comes from an orchardist family and was formerly a neighbour of many of the people in the public gallery today; she grew up next door to them as a child. She has pursued the table grapes importation issue from the day it first arose; she has raised and debated this issue in the other place. The National Party has an agriculture minister who has for the past five years completely neglected biosecurity issues and the

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implementation of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act, but in its usual style it is now trying to jump on the bandwagon after Rita Saffioti has raised these issues in the Parliament. On one level, that is a good thing, at least in terms of putting out press releases, but we know from answers to questions asked of the Minister for Agriculture and Food that the National Party has not raised these matters, and when there was an opportunity to send a clear message about what should happen, it instead chose to vote with the government of the day. I want to pay tribute to Rita Saffioti for the work she has done, and to Brett DeLSimone, who runs the Fruit Fly Action Group. The issue around fenthion area-wide management and the control of Mediterranean fruit fly very much highlights modern methods of communication. The first contact I had with Mr DeLSimone was through Twitter. I had heard him on the radio talking about this issue, and we then started to communicate via Twitter. It was as a result of that communication that we got in touch with each other and I went out there and visited the orchards, which led to the motion we are debating today. That highlights how quickly the world is moving and how the ways in which we communicate and operate will change, even though we are dealing with a very longstanding and traditional industry for Western Australia.

The reality of Mediterranean fruit fly highlights why we need to be so careful about the grapes issue. As I understand it, Mediterranean fruit fly is not native or indigenous to Western Australia; it actually got through the quarantine barriers and established —

Hon Mark Lewis: I hope it wasn't when you came here!

Hon KEN TRAVERS: No, it was about 80 or 90 years ago, so it might have been Hon Simon O'Brien!

It got in, and that illustrates why we need to be vigilant, because we are today debating how to manage that pest—how to, if not eradicate it, reduce its impact, initially in the hills area. We should understand that we need to try to reduce and control it—I doubt we will ever eradicate it—in the hills area so that it does not spread to the other fruit-growing regions in Western Australia, such as the south west. The effort that we now need to put in reinforces the need to be vigilant about diseases such as red blotch. Again, once these diseases and pests get in, it is very hard to get them out of the state. It is therefore appropriate that we put these two issues together in today's debate.

Hon Phil Edman: Is local government helping out at all?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: As I said earlier, there will be a role for local government. I am sure Hon Phil Edman is almost old enough, like me, to remember when local government representatives would come into people's backyards to inspect and bait their fruit trees. My brother and I used to very nobly assist in the eradication of fruit fly; we used to collect the lemons from our tree and our neighbour's trees, and take them down to the local retirement village, and sell them for about a dollar a bag to make our pocket money for school holidays, so I can probably almost claim to be an orchardist also!

Hon Phil Edman is absolutely right: this is an issue that covers all three tiers of government, but fundamentally, the issues around area-wide management and the release of sterile fruit flies comes back to and requires the leadership of state government. It is the state government that will ultimately need to take on that leadership role and, working with the industry, provide the funding for eradication measures, education initiatives and control of abandoned orchards—all the measures that need to be put in place to protect the industry. Yes, local government will have a role to play, but we need to have that leadership. The resources currently dedicated to this task from the Department of Agriculture and Food are not sufficient in terms of either human capital or funding. I again urge the minister to seriously consider this matter and to do whatever he can to provide those resources and to work with the industry. I will be taking the visitors present today into the courtyard after this debate, and I make the offer to all members of this Parliament to come and meet with them, to have a conversation, and to learn about the issues. They will soon see that these are hardworking Western Australians who want to work with the government on this. I do not think they get any enjoyment out of being here in Parliament today, but they are here because they know that if we do not get something happening quickly, their industry will disappear from Western Australia. I urge the minister to give serious consideration to coming to meet with this group and to see what we can do to find a permanent solution.

HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Agriculture and Food) [10.37 am]: I thank Hon Ken Travers for bringing this motion to Parliament. I start by saying that I am more than happy to meet with the growers afterwards out in the courtyard; I presume Hon Ken Travers is buying them lunch!

Hon Ken Travers: A cup of coffee at least!

Hon KEN BASTON: I just want to make a few comments on this. We need to understand the role that the Department of Agriculture and Food plays in eradicating many pests and diseases from this wonderful state. We also need to understand how our national and international trade system works. I will provide some facts about

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DAFWA and the biosecurity space; I do not believe that biosecurity issues in this state are not being fully followed, because it is very much a role that the Department of Agriculture and Food plays.

The department's overall spend on biosecurity over the past year was \$31.7 million. There are around 150 notifiable pests and diseases established in Western Australia, and Mediterranean fruit fly is one of them. There is another 1 500 pests and diseases on the watch list that we work hard to keep out, including foot and mouth disease. On average, DAFWA intercepts one pest or disease a week, and we have several hundred staff working at our borders, airports and ports and across Western Australia. Some of the concerning things that are actually being picked up include 6 418 kilograms of quarantine risk material seized at our borders over the last three months, 22 of which were significant pests such as brown lacewing, sweet potato weevil and Q-fly. Of course, we do not have Q-fly in Western Australia; it is a Queensland pest. Over the last three months, we have inspected and certified some 247 778 vehicles, 744 025 airline passengers, and 29 330 lines of produce and seed.

The Department of Agriculture and Food WA responds to around 10 000 pest and disease inquiries. We inspect livestock that comes into the state. We inspect our industries, markets and lifestyles. If foot and mouth disease came in—I announced this at the Wagin Woolorama the other day—it would cost us something like \$54 billion over 10 years. Karnal bunt and Khapra beetle could potentially cost the WA grain industry some \$65 million a year if they got in here. We thought we had a case of hendra virus, a horse disease, the other day in Derby but we did not. They are the other diseases that we keep our eye out for. We certainly take our responsibilities seriously and as a minister I take my responsibility extremely seriously. DAFWA has put together a first-response team. We have trained more than 200 staff to deal with outbreaks of infectious animal diseases. We also work with other states to control pests such as the European house borer, which can eat a house down. By the way, some 300 000 houses in Western Australia have been built with untreated pine that a house borer can do away with in a short period.

I want to touch on the trade rules, which of course affect the grapes issue raised by the honourable member. I appreciate that at times we would all like to cut off Western Australia from Australia and have a moat in between, particularly so that we would not have to send out our GST revenue. However, being part of Australia means that the federal government has certain powers under the Constitution. One of these is to make international trade agreements that give the commonwealth sole powers to decide which produce comes into Australia. Those decisions are of course based on proper and scientific risk assessment. If we did what the opposition suggested—ignore science and our trade and intergovernmental agreements—we would put WA at risk of trade sanctions and jeopardise a multibillion-dollar agricultural export industry. For those who are not aware, we export carrots and strawberries to Thailand, and carrots to Saudi Arabia and all over the world, and those exports are increasing.

Hon Ken Travers: But under those agreements if there was a real risk, we are protected, and that is the point that the growers of grapes have demonstrated now in my view.

Hon KEN BASTON: In the instance of grapes, we have basically reached every hurdle we have put up to stop grapes from coming into WA. I will touch on this matter later. Once all those hurdles are met, grapes are allowed in. Grapes do not come from a whole nation. In this instance the grapes are Californian and come from an area that is identified as acceptable. They have therefore been through a process already before they even leave the country and get into Western Australia. I have said to grower groups that if anyone can come up with anything that shows that is not the case, I am ready and able to accept that. That has always been my stance since I became minister. It is certainly not a process of open slather.

DAFWA works with the commonwealth Department of Agriculture to ensure that weeds and pests not found in WA are included in any international risk assessment and restrictions on material entering Western Australia. Western Australia has a very effective biosecurity system and provides new market and trade opportunities. I for one, as the minister, very much reiterated in a meeting with the Chinese only yesterday that we have high biosecurity provisions, we have safe food, we can export to any country in the world and we are one of the few states to do that—and they really appreciated that.

I will go on a bit more about fruit fly. The member mentioned the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Bill, which came into the house in 2007, if my memory is correct. It sat with the Standing Committee on Legislation for two years. Hon Kim Chance was the minister at the time. We were told we would have the regulations before the bill came out of the committee and back to Parliament. That was wrong! The regulations for that legislation came into effect on 1 May 2013. I have to say that when I was a member of that legislation committee, I did not think I would be following the BAM bill all the way through until I became Minister for Agriculture and Food and before it came into effect as an act.

Hon Ken Travers: That's my point. The fact that it took six years is not your fault, but your predecessor has to accept a bit of responsibility for that failure.

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Hon KEN BASTON: Making a statement! I have lost my sentence.

Under the BAM act, recognised biosecurity groups can be formed and they can get matched funding from the government, which I have been encouraging groups to do. We have had the same issue with cotton bush, and the first group has been rolled out in the Harvey–Pinjarra region. I know that Hon Darren West was very much interested in that issue given his question without notice in this place yesterday. We are therefore encouraging people to form a biosecurity group and attract that extra money dollar for dollar from the state government. I have also strongly instructed the department to play a role in facilitating that and pulling it together.

Hon Ken Travers: I think that's the problem at the moment: there aren't resources for them to get it and help the industry get to that point. That's where they need assistance and funding to get that going to put those things in place.

Hon KEN BASTON: And we are working to establish a similar type of biosecurity group for fruit fly in the hills. While I am on that, though, the BAM act allows management measures to be put in place. The management plan dated 28 October 2013 was registered in the *Government Gazette* of 12 November 2013. There is a management plan in place for the hills to do that. The member is saying that there is no policeman—if I can call it that—to go and look over the backyard and make sure that this is happening. I will not read out the management plan because it will take too long, but it is certainly there and I am sure —

Hon Ken Travers: And as I mentioned, it is not just the orchard areas themselves but the suburban areas that border them as well that can be the problem.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes.

I will touch on the chemical fenthion, which is coming to an end. We know that because I have had meetings with the federal minister on this. At the Standing Council on Primary Industries we raised the issue and tried to extend the use of fenthion in a weaker format. However, the federal minister told me that the decision is made by a statutory body, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority—APVMA—on whether a chemical is banned or accepted, and it has made the decision that fenthion will be phased out. The company that makes it—Bayer, I believe—has also said that it will be phasing it out. I must say that it is obviously an environmentally unfriendly chemical to birds and that type of thing. The world therefore does not accept it anymore. It is very much my line as the minister to encourage export from Western Australia for people to earn real dollars, earn more dollars and make profits in their business. If we want to export our produce, as I am sure we do, perhaps the number of orchardists will not reduce further from 95 now, given that there were 324 according to Hon Ken Travers.

Hon Ken Travers: It was 324 down to 95.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes, 324.

Hon Ken Travers: That's just in the hills area.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes. I do not want to see that number decrease at all; in fact, I want to see productivity and export from those businesses. It was therefore a national decision to phase out fenthion and the state government cannot overturn it. Because the decision is made by a statutory body, even the federal minister cannot overrule it.

Hon Ken Travers: I think people understand that. It's about where we go now to keep the industry alive that's the crucial issue.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes, very much so. I touched on the area-wide management plan that has been gazetted and indicates what everyone has to do. It seems to me that it needs somebody to pull it together to make it happen. Fruit fly strategies have therefore been gazetted for orchardists and backyard growers. It needs more people of the member's ilk to get lemons from everyone's yard and sell them so that they do not fall on the ground and just rot.

Hon Ken Travers: But, minister, there are in those areas also abandoned orchards, so they're just a major problem sitting right alongside operating orchards.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes.

Hon Ken Travers: It is things like that that are the real problem up there and there doesn't seem to be a mechanism for dealing with that at the moment.

Hon KEN BASTON: Under the BAM act, as the member would be aware, we cannot just move in on those orchards because somebody owns the land. If no-one owned the land, we could plant it back and sell it.

Hon Ken Travers: And the sterile fruit fly?

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Hon KEN BASTON: I was just going to touch on the sterile fruit fly. We are working on something better than the sterile fruit fly; it is a genetically modified fruit fly. I am sure that the Greens would like to hear that! I believe that it will be an advance on the sterile fruit fly, but it is a complex bit of science that is happening. I am told that it is fairly well advanced for us. That will be —

Hon Ken Travers: When will that be available?

Hon KEN BASTON: I am not sure exactly, but I can find that out for Hon Ken Travers.

Hon Ken Travers: Why can't we keep the sterile fruit flies until that is available?

Hon KEN BASTON: I just know that this was the way we were heading because it was going to be far better. We are putting our capital into that.

Hon Ken Travers: I don't want to overplay it, but if we get a major fruit fly outbreak next season, we potentially lose the whole industry. They won't be able to stay there.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members, there is limited time for these debates, as we know. The minister needs the time to cover all the points raised in the previous comments and I think he is running out of time.

Hon KEN BASTON: Thank you, Mr President, for drawing my attention to the clock. I had gone off into more detail.

I touched on the issue of table grapes. We went through every angle for that. We had an independent opinion from the South Australian agriculture department and it also did not believe there was an acceptable risk. Of course, I mentioned the trade barriers and the World Trade Organization agreement to bring those grapes in.

The government recognises the need for additional funding and has been keen to allocate that through its election promises, including \$20 million for biosecurity. That will bring in new programs, which we will announce with the rollout of those funds shortly, to boost biosecurity surveillance techniques, grape industry pest surveillance and diagnosis technologies, and fruit fly research in Carnarvon—which is one that I have been really pushing—to allow growers to lower their fruit fly levels so that they can export overseas as well. Additional funding for wild dog bounties comes under biosecurity, and we have already started on that. We are also funding foot and mouth biosecurity strategies generally.

I would be delighted to meet with the growers afterwards, Hon Ken Travers.

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [10.53 am]: The Greens support this motion. Biosecurity is certainly one of the major issues that we face. In my electorate, the Mining and Pastoral Region, biosecurity is an issue in Carnarvon.

Carnarvon grapegrower Dom Condo said Table Grapes WA —

... was calling for a two-year suspension of imports while a Pest Risk Analysis is conducted.

“If the virus did manage to get to Carnarvon, it would potentially destroy the industry ...

People who know Carnarvon understand that it is a very confined industry; it is neighbourly. If the fruit fly gets in there—bang!—the industry will be gone. The industry will be in real trouble and we would have little chance of reducing the fruit fly population.

However, my contribution will be broader than that. Peaches and mangoes are coming under threat because of a lack of national biosecurity. Whilst at a state level the policies around biosecurity are not foremost, from our perspective, they are at a national level. I remind people of the recent Beale review conducted by the federal government into what needs to happen in biosecurity. The first thing the review identified is that we need enhanced governance structures including an independent commission to assess the biosecurity risk of all imports, a national authority to undertake biosecurity operations and an inspector general of biosecurity to audit the authority's work. We need a national position on biosecurity that is integrated with what the states do, but the states at the moment are constrained by some of the national biosecurity regimes. Therefore, it is really important that we have an independent expert authority. Australia needs an expert-based biosecurity authority to meet the challenges of protecting us from pests and diseases from various imports. One thing that some growers in the top end of the Kimberley recently made me aware of—I am not quite sure how to quantify this—is that there used to be checks on a number of the boxes of fruit that came in. I think that one in every 10 boxes was checked. My understanding is that in certain areas that has now changed to one in 100 boxes being checked. Therefore, we do not have the same level of oversight of imported fruit.

As an island nation, Australia is incredibly fortunate in that we have quite good biosecurity, but unless we get on top of this issue, we will have untold problems—damage to human health and agriculture and a range of other

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issues. This country faces a looming decline in expertise in a range of biosecurity areas. Unfortunately, most of our well trained biosecurity experts are leaving the nation. Therefore, at a national level we need to ensure that we get more people into the area of biosecurity. We would prefer to create a national biosecurity commission; a decision-making panel of eminent biosecurity experts charged with making the key decisions to best protect Australia from new pests and diseases.

We must value what we have. We have agreed to a free trade agreement that allows the importation of various fruits—oranges, mangoes, peaches and grapes—into this country, but does that really count if, at the end of the day, we destroy the very fragile industry that we have here? It is a fragile but renowned industry because of the level of biosecurity we have had in the past.

As more people move around and there is more development of an international nature, biosecurity will become one of the fundamental matters that we need to deal with. Although we have issues in Carnarvon and the Perth hills, they are merely, in my view, the tip of the iceberg because we need a better biosecurity regime. Having spent some time over the last short while reading the Beale report, it is interesting that many of the recommendations it proposed were not picked up by the former federal Labor government and were not acknowledged in any way, shape or form by the Liberal opposition of the time, leaving its colleagues in the National Party to wonder what level of biosecurity would be provided. In fact, the former Labor government's lapsed biosecurity legislation made the current system even worse. For example, Labor would leave as an option standard procedures such as consultation with industry and the use of expertise for import risk assessment. The Liberal Party has not even supported the Beale review, which is the fundamental review of how to look after biosecurity in Australia. Every expert group, every farm lobby and every grower has looked at the Beale review and said, "This is the way to go", but nobody at the federal level has been prepared to take it up.

HON JACQUI BOYDELL (Mining and Pastoral) [10.59 am]: Before I start this morning, I want to go back to a comment that Hon Ken Travers made about the National Party's response to this biosecurity issue, in particular, the biosecurity risk in the Gascoyne, where I am from. His comment that we have jumped on the bandwagon is extremely disingenuous, because I am about to outline to members what my actions have been over the past year to address this issue, so I hope Hon Ken Travers is listening!

Having said that, I actually agree with this motion because I understand the biosecurity risks that have been introduced into the Gascoyne region and the concerns of the grapegrowers there, in particular. I welcome the grapegrowers who are in the gallery this morning. I will focus only on the Gascoyne region because that is where I am from and I have been working with WA table grapegrower groups. Unfortunately, it is a massive issue, certainly in the Mining and Pastoral Region, so I would like to thank Hon Ken Travers for bringing this motion to the house today. I must confess that it is not often that I agree with him. However, when it comes to protecting our state's resources and our state's disease-free competitive advantage, as well as the sustainability of our local viticulture industry, from biosecurity threats, I agree that, as a government, we need to take every step we can to ensure that our industries are protected.

My concerns, which are shared by my colleague in the other house, the member for North West Central, Vince Catania, who has been working with me and local growers on these issues, emerged not long after the decision of the then acting agriculture minister, Hon Bill Marmion, in July 2013 to relax biosecurity laws. It was a decision that for the first time allowed the importation of Californian table grapes into Western Australia. The table grapegrowers in the Gascoyne region, in particular, have a high level of dissatisfaction with that decision.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members, can we just keep the conversations around the chamber to a less audible level so that Hansard can pick up the comments being made by the member on her feet.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: There was a good deal of frustration, anger and fear about that decision. Today I want to share with members two key concerns that have been raised with me and the member for North West Central, Vince Catania. The first one, which directly relates to the concerns expressed by Hon Ken Travers, is the very real fear among table grapegrowers of disease threats—most notably, the grapevine red blotch-associated virus and its potential to undermine the local viticulture industry and its viability.

The second concern—although it is not directly related to Hon Ken Travers' motion today, it is still very relevant to this debate given its direct relevance to those grapegrowers—is the economic impact being experienced as a result of the decision to relax those importation laws. The local grape market is seasonal, as we all know. It starts around November and continues through the summer months. The anecdotal evidence I have received indicates that six weeks into the local grape season, imported table grapes were still being sold in retail stores—that is, at a time in the grape season when our growers need to make the most of their opportunities to continue in the industry and continue to grow. As a result, local growers have had to sell grapes at about \$10 a kilo, instead of the \$15 to \$18 a kilo approximately that they earned in previous years. That has had a major impact on growers.

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Hon Alanna Clohesy: There is a glut in the market.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Yes; absolutely. I have been dealing with one grower in particular whose annual income is dependent on this early market release. This season, that grower's income has been almost halved compared with the previous year. This indicates the growing financial hardships being experienced by grapegrowers, especially in the Gascoyne region with the costs for labour and the need to buy emergency water as a result of salinity and the flood issues in the Gascoyne. Although supporters of a free-market ideology will say that this is the nature of competitive markets and that the industry should not be protected, no economic or competitive analysis is undertaken when deciding to allow for that competition. It is just assumed that the result is positive. I believe it is problematic and needs to be reviewed. As the Minister for Agriculture and Food knows, I have sent numerous letters to him highlighting my concerns about these issues.

Hon Ken Baston: By way of interjection, I have visited Carnarvon.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: I know.

Hon Ken Baston: And I advised growers to actually send me their request about biosecurity, and I still have not received one letter from them.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: They need to take responsibility for that; I am not arguing that at all. What I am saying to the house today is that I believe it is a concern, and I agree that those growers and that group should write to the minister. I will be encouraging them to do that.

I wrote my first letter to the minister on 30 July last year. I outlined my two concerns—namely, the financial and economic impacts and the general biosecurity concerns—and requested further clarification of what considerations were taken into account to allow for the importation of grapes into WA. In his response, the minister indicated that Australia has responsibilities in being a member country of the World Trade Organization, which I accept, and a signatory to the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The minister also indicated —

Australia is obligated to ensure that phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment of the risks and are the least trade restrictive possible, while ensuring that the risk posed by pests and diseases does not exceed Australia's Appropriate Level of Protection.

Western Australia, as a signatory to the intergovernmental agreement on biosecurity, is required to comply with the application of the sanitary and phytosanitary measures in that agreement. The minister also indicated that, as a result of the pest risk assessment required in these agreements, several phytosanitary protections measures had been implemented for Californian table grapes, including fumigation with sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide, cold disinfestation treatment and also visual inspection of the grapes.

In December last year, again I wrote to the minister raising concerns about the real financial impact, as well as concerns surrounding the impact of the Mediterranean fruit fly raised with me by the table grapegrowers in Carnarvon. In his response, the minister indicated that he acknowledged that there was a financial impact on local growers, and he was also aware of the discussions they were having around the Mediterranean fruit fly. I recognise that the minister has been working with those groups, but we are yet to see an outcome. He also outlined some measures that had been put in place to support grapegrowers, including technical advice on the medfly baiting scheme and on medfly control, and, with that group in Carnarvon, seeking funding opportunities for an eradication program and advice on the establishment of the Carnarvon recognised biosecurity group. He also touched on the Buy West Eat Best program, including a trial program with the Carnarvon growers, as well as planning for a trade mission to key markets, with representation from Table Grapes WA. They are all great things; I recognise that. The minister stated, firstly, that any review or ongoing monitoring of the importation of table grapes into Australia and WA is the responsibility of the federal Department of Agriculture; and, secondly, that the Department of Agriculture and Food in WA is willing—I know he stated this this morning—to request a review of these imports, provided that the new scientific or technical information or changes that point to biosecurity threats is taken into account.

In the past month I have received independent evidence from the chairman of Table Grapes WA, Mr Roger Fahl. I believe he has also written to the minister and to the department. I suggest that that independent scientific evidence might prompt the minister to want to instigate a review, and I am certainly happy to talk to him about that further. When I wrote to the minister, he also noted that the WA Department of Agriculture and Food considers regional quarantine pests and that the submission to the draft non-regulated analysis of existing policy for California table grapes imported into Western Australia reflects the distinction in that review. At this time, the minister is confident that the obligations of DAFWA under the national agreement have been followed and that a formal investigation into the matter is not warranted at the moment. I have the new evidence that has been presented. If the minister has not seen it yet, I am happy to give it to him today. Noting the time, I will just say that I have also spoken with and written to the federal agriculture minister, Barnaby Joyce. I met with him last

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week on this issue. I hope, at a federal level, that we will also be able to instigate a review. I am also happy to meet with the growers who are in the gallery today.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural) [11.09 am]: It was a great motion by Hon Ken Travers. As can be seen by the level of interest around the house, it is certainly an issue that a lot of people have an opinion on. I think we would all be united in our support for the orchardists from the Hills Orchard Improvement Group who are in the public gallery today. It was great to meet them outside. As a fellow food producer, I always like it when food producers come to Parliament. It makes me feel slightly overdressed, but I get a solid handshake and a look in the eye as we shake hands. It was great to meet them today. It is just a shame that it takes a crisis in the industry before anything is done. We are a bit guilty of this. When it gets really bad, we all need to get together and fight for our industry. It is happening more and more. It is a shame that governments cannot be a little more ahead of the game than they are on an important issue such as this. It is great that they have come to Parliament today. I also note that when farmers and food producers come to Parliament, the media love the passion that they show. The media can get some real people's stories and capture the anguish that producers feel. It made for some great media this morning. I am sure that there will be a run on the news tonight, so well done.

The orchard industry—I must point out to Hon Jacqui Boydell that we have orchardists with us today rather than grapegrowers—like many others, including the grapegrowing industry, is feeling let down by the Liberal–National government. As Hon Ken Travers has pointed out, we are hopeful that with the new Minister for Agriculture and Food, who is only a year into the job, things may improve. We have certainly had five tough years during which we have been overlooked, taken for granted and neglected. It is time that the industry got the support it deserves. For quite a while we have been told what cannot be done and what the government cannot do for us, when all we really need are some meaningful solutions, so I look forward to those.

Hon Jacqui Boydell interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: I sat very quietly while Hon Jacqui Boydell made her contribution.

An industry-wide plan is needed. In this case, we think that a good start would be a program for the continued release of sterile flies. We think that the continued use of fenthion in a controlled manner could be an interim measure until there is a better option. That could be pursued a little more rigorously. If the budget were not so tight, perhaps some funds could be freed up for such a program. A \$40 million industry is at stake here, and that is at the farm gate. By the time these products are value added, jobs are created and the downstream processing and the market sales take place, we are talking about a \$100 million industry. We are not talking about small bickies. This is an important financial contributor to the state, as well as to the livelihoods of those involved in the industry.

The other thing that I learnt from the media this morning is that many orchardists are looking at the prospect of a 50 per cent reduction in production. That is unsustainable. In today's very tight terms of trade, no primary industry business can survive imposts such as that. This is a very productive group. It has a great advocate in Brett DelSimone, whom I have met a couple of times. The federal shadow Minister for Agriculture does come to Western Australia from time to time. On one of his trips, he met with Brett and they went to the orchards to see them firsthand. The federal Minister for Agriculture has not offered us the same courtesy, but I hope that one day, if he comes to Western Australia, he may be interested enough to have a look firsthand. I support the group. I certainly support the motion, because it highlights a lot of the weaknesses in the government policy over the past five years.

I also want to touch on the second part of the motion, which is about the importation of California table grapes. On 7 August 2013, the member for West Swan, Rita Saffioti, who has a long history with this industry, moved a motion. It is often perceived that the conservative side of politics has all the players in matters agricultural, but that is clearly no longer the case. Of course, many people on the progressive side of politics come from agricultural backgrounds, including me and Senator Louise Pratt, who we hope will be successful in retaining her place in the Senate. She grew up on an orchard, as did the member for West Swan, Rita Saffioti.

Hon Simon O'Brien: What on earth are you talking about?

Hon DARREN WEST: I sat very quietly during everyone else's contributions.

When the importation of California table grapes was suddenly allowed last year, the member for West Swan raised a motion in the Legislative Assembly and there was a debate on the importation of California table grapes, because, of course, the industry was concerned about diseases such as *Phomopsis viticola* and the red blotch virus. It was reported quite widely in the media. There were genuine concerns. I looked at the *Hansard* of the debate and every National and Liberal Party member voted against that motion. The member for North West Central whizzed out a press release last week in which he asked for a review, and Hon Jacqui Boydell stood in this place today and said that the party wants a review. The National Party did not

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support the motion of the member for West Swan. There is a bit of a mixed message coming from members of the minor coalition party, so they had better get their position straight. They had better decide whether they want to support growers in a meaningful way or whether they just want to put out a press release and make glib statements in the media saying that they are on the growers' side. When it comes time in Parliament to stand up and be counted and do what they are elected to do, they are nowhere to be seen, and that needs to be pointed out to producers. Words are cheap and easy; it is their actions and their vote in Parliament that count. That needed to be pointed out.

The figures from the Department of Agriculture and Food on the importation of California table grapes give a 90 per cent surety that there will be no problem. If those figures are extrapolated a little, it means that in one out of 20 years there will be an outbreak of *Phomopsis viticola* or red blotch. I do not think that is an acceptable scenario to the industry either. I found an article in the Midland *Echo News* of 8 March 2014, so it is a relatively recent article, in which Roger Fahl from Table Grapes WA demanded that DAF carry out further due diligence on the decision to allow the further importation of California table grapes because of these concerns. The fight still goes on from producers. Producers will continue to have our support because we believe that a lot of these decisions have been made in haste and by an agriculture minister who, quite frankly, was not up to the job. I am with Hon Ken Travers on that. I am very hopeful now that we have a new agriculture minister. Clearly, issues in some of the minister's other portfolios have been a bit distracting from what we are trying to achieve for orchardists and table grapegrowers. I look forward to us all working together on this issue and coming up with some serious solutions that will help sustain the industry because, ultimately, that is what we are all about.

I know that there are other speakers so I will not use up all the time. I hope that today is the day that we listen to the industry, respond to the industry's concerns and work with the industry to find meaningful solutions for now, medium and longer term.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate that I have noted that three government members, Hon Rick Mazza and Hon Alanna Clohesy want to speak. The first government member I noted was Hon Alyssa Hayden, so my speaking order at this stage is Hon Alyssa Hayden and Hon Rick Mazza, and, if there is extra time, I will try to fit in everybody I can.

HON ALYSSA HAYDEN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.18 am]: I, too, find myself in the same shoes as Hon Jacqui Boydell in that for the first time I agree with Hon Ken Travers. I thank him for bringing this motion to the house. I also welcome him to the East Metropolitan Region. I assume that he will move at the next election. It is fantastic to see someone from the North Metropolitan Region raise issues that are vital in the East Metropolitan Region.

Hon Ken Travers: You weren't doing it, so someone had to.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I was, Hon Ken Travers. He would know that if he had bothered to pick up the phone.

Hon Sue Ellery: He is the shadow minister so he can raise these issues.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I am congratulating him; what is wrong with that?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Do not listen to the interjections; just make your comments through the Chair.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I congratulate Hon Ken Travers for doing that, and I hope one day to see him as a member for East Metropolitan Region because he is raising more issues than the others.

As a passionate member for East Metropolitan Region, I honestly believe in protecting the Swan Valley and our Perth hills region. The Swan Valley and the Perth hills have had a long history of not only producing fantastic produce for our community, but also creating a fantastic ambience and uniqueness, which people love to enjoy when they visit. The last thing I want to see as a local member is any of these regions at risk.

Before I go on, I want to point out that as a responsible state and a responsible First World country, we have to remember that we must respect and honour the world trade agreement. Our WA farmers rely on our multibillion-dollar export industry, and the last thing we want to do is put that at risk. However, I agree that we do not want to put our own local industry at risk just for a world trade agreement. We have to find that balance. That is why I am grateful that this issue was raised today. It seems that everyone on all sides of politics agrees that we need to ensure that we protect our local industry at the same time as ensuring that we can honour the world trade agreement.

I have spoken to a number of Swan Valley growers about this issue. I have also spoken to Darryl Trease and John Griffiths and I have corresponded with Roger Fahl. I have offered to have a meeting with the growers. I have spoken to the minister; I have been working with him to ensure that any of the importation applications that come through are scrutinised and that the highest levels of biosecurity are put in place. I have also asked the

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minister to meet with these growers because the best way anyone can learn about the issues on the ground is to meet with the individuals themselves, to hear from them directly and to learn what their industry is facing. The minister needs to hear firsthand about the growers' on-the-ground experiences and then have that debate and discussion with them. The only way we can resolve an issue such as this is for the minister, who I know is willing and keen, to meet with the local growers, listen to their issues and take on board their extra information.

Hon Alanna Clohesy: Why has it taken until now?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I am glad Hon Alanna Clohesy asked that. I put that invitation out there some months ago.

Hon Alanna Clohesy: The growers have been trying to do that for months.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I put the invitation out there and it has not been taken up.

Hon Alanna Clohesy: They have been trying to do that for a long time.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: If they have, why have they not taken up my invitation? I put it out there. I have spoken with a number of them —

Hon Ken Travers: Because they've been on the record as saying that you're inaccurate and ill-informed.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: When was that on the record?

Hon Ken Travers: It was in the paper.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: We believe everything in the paper, do we not? Anyway, the offer is out there. The minister is willing and keen and I am willing and keen. I hope that after today the grapegrowers and the orchardists will take up my offer and want to meet with me because it is the only way we will move forward on this issue. I have sent letters, I have made phone calls and I have written emails putting that offer out. I do not need to stand here and justify myself to members. I am a hardworking, local member of Parliament. Have the East Metropolitan members spoken to the grapegrowers? I do not think so. I know Rita Saffioti, the member for West Swan, has and I commend her for that. I just hope that the offer that I put out there to meet with the minister will be taken up. As I said, I am passionate about the area and I know that the only way to move forward on this issue is to ensure that the minister is well aware of the concerns so we can ensure that we get a system in place to protect our local growers.

Hon Ken Travers: What about the hills orchard group?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I mentioned the Hills Orchard Improvement Group.

Hon Ken Travers: Are you happy to meet with them?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I am happy to meet with them.

Hon Ken Travers: Why haven't you already if you're such a hardworking member?

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: They have not taken up the offer. They have said to me, "Everything is fine; don't worry about it." They are the exact words they used. It confuses me when we read newspaper articles and we have motions such as this. I see growers in the gallery now. I wonder if they received the message through their representatives I am speaking with and had the invitation passed down to them. If they have not, I am sorry, because obviously the communications are not working properly. I put out that invitation. I recognise a number of the faces in the gallery, and I put out that invitation to them. If they do not choose to take that up, I cannot force them. If they want to meet, the offer has always been there and we are more than willing to meet them. This government believes in listening to the people on the ground who are doing the work, not having political hype. We get out there and do our job quietly, confidently and professionally. I look forward to meeting with the growers later this afternoon.

HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [11.25 am]: I rise today to also support the motion moved by Hon Ken Travers. I qualify that by saying that it is not just this government that has failed; over a long period, successive governments have failed to deal with a lot of our biosecurity issues. I do not want to contradict Hon Ken Travers, but the Mediterranean fruit fly, or medfly, was first discovered in Claremont in 1895, so we have had this invasive pest in our state for just on 120 years. We still have it with us after 120 years. It is something that successive governments have struggled to deal with over a long period. As a young boy at my grandparents' orchard in Yarloop, I remember the Agriculture Protection Board of Western Australia coming around on a regular basis and spraying fruit trees. Even if we had only one or two fruit trees in our backyard in urban areas, we had to have them sprayed. At that time there was a fairly concerted effort to try to control medfly. If my memory serves me right, I remember that at one stage we could not take fruit south to Pinjarra so as to try to protect the south west from medfly. Unfortunately, the south west also has problems with medfly; in fact, it has done for decades. It is an insect and a pest that is a major threat to our orchardists from the Perth hills

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right through to the south west and anywhere we grow fruit. I concur with Hon Ken Travers that a lot of these problems have arisen from a change in lifestyles. A lot of orchards and farms have been divided into small lifestyle properties. I know of quite a few farms in the south west in which orchards of significant size have been abandoned because they are not commercially viable anymore. They are breeding havens for pests such as medfly and other diseases.

I note that the growers have been restricted greatly in controlling medfly. Sprays such as fenthion and dimethoate have been restricted, so it is more and more difficult for commercial growers to have the tools to combat the medfly problem. I have noted that the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia began carrying out trials in the Perth hills in 2012, which will continue through to 2015. The department has been installing traps for research on how to deal with this problem. I heard Hon Ken Travers talk about using the sterile male medfly to try to deal with this particular insect. The Minister for Agriculture and Food suggested that there is a new improved genetically modified fly. I have seen the movie *The Fly*, so I am a little concerned about how that will turn out at the end of the day! We will probably have to look to a biological solution in the future for many pests, from insects and fungi to invasive animals such as rabbits and foxes. Rabbits were a great plague and problem for us in the 1800s.

Hon Jim Chown: Thank God they don't fly.

Hon RICK MAZZA: Some might at times. The rabbits are pretty much under control these days because of calicivirus and myxomatosis. Anybody who lives in the country would know that in recent times we might have seen a population grow but then they get myxomatosis or calici and it dies down again. It is something that we have been able to control through biological means.

Protection of our borders is particularly important. I know that Norseman still has a biosecurity stop so that we cannot bring fruit into the state from other states. Queensland fruit fly was in Western Australia at one point but it was eradicated in the 1990s. At least we have been able to hold that pest out.

One thing that we have to keep in mind is that we have free trade interaction with countries all around the world. We have garlic from Mexico and oranges and grapes from California. There was controversy some years back about apples from New Zealand with apple scab and the Donnybrook growers being very concerned about contamination. The reality is though that we have a free trade market and we have to trade with other countries, either exporting our produce or importing produce from other countries. Certainly, we need to have the most stringent quarantine measures to make sure that whatever we import into the country is safe for our growers and to minimise any possibility of contamination of our food growing industry.

I would like to close by saying that we need to address a number of issues, not just medfly. Cotton bush has been a fairly hot topic and again that is the product of lifestyle properties being bought, with many of those people buying them living in urban areas. Professional farmers are doing what they can with cotton bush, but if the neighbouring property has not been treated, obviously it is becoming a losing battle. We need to look at ways that we can combat the effects of changing lifestyles within our communities to make sure we have our agricultural industry protected.

The PRESIDENT: This is when I sometimes have a dilemma as the Chair. I know there are only five minutes left to debate this motion and that three other speakers desperately want to speak—one an ex-customs officer, another one with a professional background in the area and another a local member for the hills area that is being discussed. However, seeing that this is non-government business, I have to give the preference to the non-government member, Hon Alanna Clohesy.

HON ALANNA CLOHESY (East Metropolitan) [11.32 am]: Thank you, Mr President. This is a great opportunity to be able to talk on this issue because it has been a concern for members of the Labor Party for a number of years. Rita Saffioti, the fantastic member for West Swan, has been raising this issue with the government since before my time in Parliament. In fact, since 2010 she has been raising concerns to the government about grape importation in particular, which is the part of the motion I wish to talk on. The member for West Swan has been raising this issue for all that time and the government has been replying to her that there would not be a problem because the World Trade Organization would sort it out, and that the legislation that had only recently come into force in 2008 would also protect grapegrowers against the import of grapes. We now know that none of that was true and that, in fact, grapes have been imported into WA. Most particularly, the real turn of events occurred in December last year when there was some specific importation of California table grapes. The member for East Metropolitan Region, Alyssa Hayden, said that we were —

Hon Alyssa Hayden: Hon Alyssa Hayden.

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Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Hon Alyssa Hayden—I thank her for pointing that out to me—said that there has not been a problem and that what the Labor Party and Rita Saffioti were doing was no more than fearmongering over the disease and that it was disrespectful. That was actually quoted in the *Ellenbrook Advocate*.

Hon Alyssa Hayden: Are you going to read the whole quote out or just a selection?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: I will start with this one —

But East Metropolitan Region MP Alyssa Hayden said no application to import grapes had been made and the “fear mongering” over disease was disrespectful ...

Of course, that is not what the growers think. They think there is real reason to be concerned and that Hon Alyssa Hayden has missed the point. They are saying that there are agents in Western Australia who at this very minute are talking about importing grapes. In fact, there are agents at Canning Vale markets that are telling growers that those grapes will be imported, and that is why the growers want answers to these questions. That is also why Hon Ken Travers has brought this motion to the Council for us to debate and express our concern. I think it is great that this issue is out in the open and that we have an opportunity to debate it. The other thing that growers were told is that when there was a recent importation of Californian table grapes, it was only done when they were out of season in Western Australia. That is what Hon Alyssa Hayden was quoted as saying again in the *Ellenbrook Advocate*. She said —

“This occurred out of season when WA table grapes were not available. Therefore it was reasonable for the major supermarkets to provide customers with the option of purchasing imported grapes.”

Of course, that was in December. We know, as Hon Jacqui Boydell has also told us, that grapegrowers in Carnarvon in particular were still supplying the market.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members. There are several very, very audible conversations around the chamber. It makes it difficult for the speaker on her feet and for Hansard recording the debate.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: Grapegrowers have been saying that thanks to Coles and Woolworths those grapes were taken off the market, but then importers dropped their price for those grapes and that caused a glut in the market. That, too, was of great concern to grapegrowers.

The third comment made was that the plant disease *Phomopsis viticola* was not a threat to grapes in WA because imported grapes were being sprayed with sulfur dioxide prior to leaving the United States and other countries and that the grapes were nowhere near Swan Valley vineyards. Of course growers are saying something completely different; that is, *Phomopsis viticola* has never been in WA, but one of the problems is that the Department of Agriculture and Food does not recognise the protocol for cold sterilisation —

The PRESIDENT: Time having elapsed for that debate, non-government business is completed. We now move on to private members’ business. I know there are disappointed members who want to contribute to that debate, but there is nothing I can do about it from the Chair. They were the 80 minutes allocated and that is it.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.