

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — SAVINGS MEASURES — DARLING RANGE BY-ELECTION

492. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to WA Labor's failure to retain the district of Darling Range at last weekend's by-election, only 15 months after its convincing win in that seat.

- (1) Will the minister accept personal responsibility for contributing to Labor's poor performance, given her ongoing attack on regional education?
- (2) Will the minister reconsider her cuts to regional education in light of the election loss?

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the House, after listening to the first part of the question, it probably does not relate to your particular portfolio; the second part probably does. I will leave that to you as to how you respond.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

(1)–(2) I think I am actually being asked to express an opinion about myself.

The PRESIDENT: Yes. I do not think you can provide that.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I think asking for an opinion is —

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Nick Goiran has had his opportunity for a question today. The Leader of the House is replying.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I think I was asked for an opinion but I am happy to give it —

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! This week is going to be a very busy week. People will probably be quite cranky by the end of the week. I think that if somebody is on their feet responding, you should do them the polite courtesy of letting them provide that response and listen to them.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I think I was being asked to express an opinion —

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: This is not a good way to start the week.

Hon SUE ELLERY: As I said, I think I was being asked to express an opinion or pass judgement on myself, but the answers to the honourable member's questions are no and no.