

POTATO MARKETING CORPORATION — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

171. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the potato industry and the Premier's comment in the media—Western Australian *Country Hour* online, 30 May—when he was quoted as saying that the legal action could have potentially bankrupted Mr Galati.

- (1) How did the Premier become aware that the legal action could have bankrupted Mr Galati?
- (2) Was the potential for bankruptcy of Mr Galati a factor in the decision to have the state drop the civil case against Mr Galati?
- (3) If no to (2), why did the Premier mention the matter of bankruptcy in the context of dropping the civil action against Mr Galati?
- (4) Is the Premier aware of the potential savings to Mr Galati now that the civil case has been dropped compared with the outcome of a successful prosecution had the matter gone to court?
- (5) What advice has the Premier or his ministers received as to the value of this savings benefit?
- (6) Did Mr Galati or his representatives donate to the Labor Party?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know about answering the last part of that question. You can answer the other parts.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) It stands to reason that as Mr Galati stated to *The West Australian* in January 2017 that he would be appealing to the public for funds to fight his defence as he could not afford it himself, it follows logically that the action could potentially bankrupt him.
- (2)–(3) As the Premier stated on WA *Country Hour*, his position is that the state should have no role in prosecuting people for growing potatoes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) As Madam President has pointed out, donations are a matter for the Labor Party, and as per the standing orders of this place, the Premier is not able to answer the question as it does not relate to actions or decisions as a sworn minister of the Crown.