

POTATO MARKETING BOARD

**693. Hon ADELE FARINA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

- (1) Has the minister determined to abolish the Potato Marketing Board?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
  - (a) has cabinet approved the abolition of the Potato Marketing Board;
  - (b) what consultation, if any, has the minister or the department undertaken with potato growers; and
  - (c) when does the minister expect the board to be abolished?
- (3) Given the strong opposition by potato growers, will the minister reconsider the decision to abolish the Potato Marketing Board?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I have only just reappointed a new board, and that board, I believe, has only just met. It is up to that board to look at the potato industry and promote it and get back to me eventually. Nothing will actually be deregulated until 2017, and I have always gone along with that and stuck with that, and the Premier has actually said that as well. So, the Potato Marketing Board is still there. It is a new board, and it has a new chairperson who was on the board before. It will deal with the potato industry as we go, bearing in mind that I am interested to see the stance taken. I know that we have had discussions. The opposition's thing is to deregulate the board.