

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY — BACHELOR OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

503. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to a media comment made by Hon Sue Ellery that was published in the *Farm Weekly* dated 26 August 2017, which states —

“If Charles Sturt University wants to continue to provide its course through Muresk Institute beyond 2017 it is entitled to do so and I would encourage it to,” ...

- (1) Did the minister, the Department of Training and Workforce Development or Central Regional TAFE instruct Charles Sturt University or anyone acting on its behalf to cease promotion of the university or its Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management course at Dowerin Field Days?
- (2) If yes to (1), who gave such direction, what was the nature of the direction and on what basis was the direction given?
- (3) Has any direction been given to Charles Sturt University to cease distributing materials or displaying signage which carries the royalties for regions brand?
- (4) If yes to (3), who gave such direction, what was the nature of the direction and on what basis was the direction given?
- (5) Does the minister support Charles Sturt University in promoting its Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management course at Muresk Institute and will she commit to curtailing undue influence by her department in this regard?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) No. Central Regional TAFE staff were requested by the Department of Training and Workforce Development to remove the co-branded promotional signage to avoid student confusion.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) If Charles Sturt University wants to continue to provide its course through Muresk Institute beyond 2017, it is entitled to do so and I encourage it to. I take issue with the premise in part (5) of the member's question about undue influence by the department in this regard. I do not accept that that has happened at all. What I have done at Muresk is clean up the unfunded mess that was created by the previous government.