

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, DEBT COLLECTION POLICY

2397. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I refer the Minister to question on notice No. 2024, asked on 16 September 2003, and ask -

For each person or company listed with a debt over \$10,000 -

- (a) what is the amount of each debt;
- (b) what was the cause of the debt;
- (c) what action was taken to recover the debt;
- (d) for companies that are still in operation, has a repayment schedule been put in place to recover the debt; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

Department of Agriculture

The response to Question on Notice 2024 regarding debts written off during the period 19/02/01 to 30/06/03 included transposition errors.

The corrected information is:

	19/2/01-30/6/01	2001/2002	2002/2003
Agriculture Protection Board	0	254.00	1,720.80
Agriculture WA	0	8,895.54	87,165.50
Agriculture Produce Commission	0	14,308.00	0
TOTAL	0	23,457.54	88,886.30

The original response was:

	19/2/01-30/6/01	2001/2002	2002/2003
Agriculture Protection Board	0	254.00	1,720.80
Agriculture WA	0	8,895.54	0
Agriculture Produce Commission	0	9,588.70	87,165.50
TOTAL	0	18,738.24	88,886.30

For each person or company listed with a debt over \$10,000 -

- (a) What is the amount of each debt;

There were two Department of Agriculture debts greater than \$10,000 written off in the 2002/2003 year. All the other debts written off in other years were less than \$10,000. The two debts greater than \$10,000 were:

 - (1) Manuel Calzada. GinGin Virgin Management \$11,160.00 Invoice date 17/04/1998.
 - (2) Techgro Ltd \$10,740 (excl. of GST) Invoice date 05/02/2002.
- (b) What was the cause of the debt;
 - (1) Manuel Calzada. GinGin Virgin Management

This invoice is for consultancy and assessment services provided by the Department to a property in Gingin at Swan Location 5395, Cowalla Road.
 - (2) Techgro Ltd

This invoice is for training provided by the Department of Agriculture.
- (b) What action was taken to recover the debt;
 - (1) Manuel Calzada. GinGin Virgin Management – Following attempts to recover the debt the Department referred the matter to the Crown solicitor's Office for debt recovery action. A summons and warrant of execution were issued, but the company proceeded into liquidation. Proof of debt was registered with the liquidator.

- (2) Techgro Ltd - During attempts to recover this debt by the Department the company proceeded into liquidation. Proof of debt was registered with the liquidator.
- (c) For companies that are still in operation, has a repayment schedule been put in place to recover the debt;
and
Not applicable.
- (d) If not, why not?
Not applicable.
- Department of Fisheries
- (a)-(e) Please see schedule attached. [See paper No 2130.]
- Great Southern Development Commission
- a) \$84,826
- b) This debt was the result of fraud perpetrated by a then employee of the Commission in 1997. Recovery of this amount was pursued with the assistance of the District Court, the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Public Trustee, the Auditor General's Office, a bailiff and financial counsellor to work with and assist the offender. Ultimately the GSDC was forced to accept that the possibility of recovering these moneys from an unemployed, single parent, with health problems was negligible.

Ministerial approval was sought and obtained to write off this debt in October 2002.
- c)-d) Not applicable.
-