

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, COST OF HIRING OR PURCHASING PLANTS AND FLOWERS

1578. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

For all Government departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolio, will the Minister advise -

- (a) what amount has been paid for the hiring and/or purchase of plants since the February State Election in 2001; and
- (b) what amount has been paid for the hiring and/or purchase of flowers since the February State Election in 2001?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

Department of Conservation and Land Management

- (a) Since February 2001 the Department has spent \$155,055.54 on purchase of plants (seedlings) for restoration of degraded sites or to address rising saline water tables in the Wheatbelt. As the Department does not generally hire or purchase plants for other purposes such as office decoration, no separate account is kept to identify such transactions and it would not be cost effective to manually identify these items.
- (b) From time to time flowers are purchased for occasions such as funerals. Flowers are not allocated a separate accounting code and it would not be cost effective to check all purchases made since the State Election in February 2001.

Department of Environmental Protection and Water and Rivers Commission

- (a) Water and Rivers Commission - \$12,178.21
Department of Environmental Protection - \$6,047.80
Combined total of \$18226.01.
- (b) For both the Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection, flowers are not normally hired/purchased. However, from time to time, purchases are made for unusual occasions such as international visitors and funerals. Flowers are not allocated a separate accounting code and it would not be cost effective to check all purchases made since the State Election in 2001.

Office of Water Regulation

- (a)-(b) Nil

Perth Zoo

- (a) \$106,581 has been paid for the purchase of plants since the State Election (February 2001 to June 2003). These plant acquisitions are for garden and animal exhibit upgrades at Perth Zoo. No plants have been hired by Perth Zoo since the State Election.
- (b) \$674 has been paid for the purchase of cut flowers since the State Election (February 2001 to June 2003). No flowers have been hired by Perth Zoo since the State Election.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Hiring and/or purchase of flowers
 - Anzac Day 2001 \$90
 - Anzac Day 2002 \$90
 - Anzac Day 2003 \$90

AqWest Bunbury

- (a) \$3,515.00
- (b) \$628.00

Busselton Water Board

- (a) Hire \$1,534.00, Purchase \$542.00
- (b) Nil