

MILK DISTRIBUTION ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME RETAIL PAYMENTS

Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry:

When the milk distribution adjustment assistance scheme retail payments of 1998 were revisited with ex gratia payments in 2004 -

- (1) Why were five former milk vendors permitted to keep their 1998 payments when seven former milk vendors were required to pay them back?
- (2) Does the minister accept that the situation arose as a result of administrative error?
- (3) If so, why will the minister not correct the anomaly by returning the payments in dispute to the seven affected former milk vendors?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No former milk vendors have been required to repay any assistance provided under the distribution adjustment assistance scheme.
- (2)-(3) There was no administrative error.

Given that this is a complex issue, I am happy to provide the member with a briefing so that he can understand some of the complexities that are clearly not possible to explain on the face of the question.