

DAIRY INDUSTRY COMPENSATION PACKAGE

238. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the minister representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) How many dairy farmers were eligible to receive money under the compensation package following deregulation of the dairy industry?
- (2) How many of those eligible farmers applied for compensation?
- (3) Has the minister received any figures indicating the number of dairy farmers who have opted to leave the industry following deregulation?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)-(3) Approximately \$108m of the Federal Government's \$1.8b restructure package has been provided to Western Australian dairy farmers to assist a managed transition to a deregulated market. This state coalition Government has also provided a \$27m dairy industry assistance package to the Western Australian dairy industry to further assist the transition. In addition, the State Government has transferred to the industry the ownership and net assets of the Dairy Industry Authority of Western Australia and the Herd Improvement Service of Western Australia, worth in excess of \$10m.