

REGIONAL INVESTMENT FUND

**98. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Regional Development:**

Of the \$80 million committed over the term of the government to the regional investment fund, what portion has been expended as at 20 February 2007?

**Hon JON FORD replied:**

I thank the Hon Nigel Hallett for some notice of the question. The question is of some length. I table the answer and seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 2557.]

The following material was incorporated -

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Expenditure of the \$80 million in the Regional Investment Fund (RIF) is \$19,155,320.28 or 23.94% of the total funds available.

Expenditure by RIF program is as follows:

- (a) Regional Infrastructure Funding Program \$8,991,928.72
- (b) Indigenous Regional Development Program \$506,352
- (c) Western Australian Regional Initiatives Scheme \$1,098,878
- (d) Regional Headworks Program \$483,161.56
- (e) Regional Development Scheme \$8,075,000

Please note that whilst the level of expenditure is 23.94% of total funds the level of approvals is \$45,237,160 or 56.54% of the total RIF funds. The major reasons for expenditure levels lagging behind approvals are:

- (a) Problems associated with applicants securing funding for their projects from other sources, which causes projects to be delayed.
- (b) Difficulties in contracting tradespeople and other skilled occupations in regional areas causing a delay in project commencement dates and resulting in cost increases for projects.

Details of projects funded under RIF can be found at

<http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/FinancialAssist/Default.asp>

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