

GRAINS RESEARCH FACILITY — NORTHAM — MEMBER LAUNCH INVITE

294. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I draw the minister's attention to an invitation sent to me by her office advising of a launch by the minister of the new grains research facility at Northam. I was kindly invited to attend as a member of the Agricultural Region. Can the minister advise the following.

- (1) When did the minister's office become aware of the event?
- (2) Why did the minister's office provide advice to me only at 11.58 am on 1 May for a function in Northam at 9.30 the following morning?
- (3) Did any other government members attend the launch?
- (4) If yes to (3), when and how were they advised of the event?
- (5) Is it usual for invitations to be issued to non-government members less than 24 hours before the event?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for that question. I obviously do not have all that information at my disposal in the chamber. I am happy to check that. I did check with my office that people who were members of the Agricultural Region had been invited. I can only presume that perhaps some had not been invited and that was done latterly. I apologise for that. I note that many members on this side of the house have commented that they rarely received invitations as upper house members. Certainly, members from the ag region should have been invited. I am more than happy to get some clarification of those details. My parliamentary secretary, Hon Darren West, was in attendance and, I believe, Hon Martin Aldridge was in attendance.