

BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

447. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Science and Innovation:

I refer to the state government's biotechnology industry development strategy.

- (1) At what time of the year is this planned to be implemented?
- (2) How will the strategy be implemented?
- (3) How much money in the budget has been committed to the strategy?
- (4) How will this strategy address the problems associated with the current limitations of the sharing of knowledge in the biotechnology sector?
- (5) What problems will this strategy address?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for his excellent question and for giving notice of it.

- (1) The Western Australian biotechnology industry development strategy is currently being finalised and will be launched upon completion. Once launched, at a date to be determined, the strategy will be implemented over a four-year period from 2006-07 to 2009-10.
- (2) The strategy will be implemented by the Department of Industry and Resources and usual project management tools will be utilised, as appropriate.
- (3) The budget commitment for the Western Australian biotechnology industry development strategy will be determined on an annual basis. Funding submissions will be developed for consideration by the government. These will be funded from the appropriation of \$18 million per year for science and innovation, as approved in the 2006-07 budget.
- (4) The development of the strategy has involved extensive industry consultation to ensure that identified constraints and barriers to growth have been addressed. This has occurred at both peak industry body and individual company and institution levels.
- (5) The strategy will address four key priorities: building capacity, building capability, going global, and building understanding.