

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RELOCATION TO BUNBURY

3200. Mr A.J. Dean to the Minister for Tourism; Small Business; Sport and Recreation; Peel and the South West

I refer to the article entitled 'Liberals move in' in the *Bunbury Mail* of 1 September 2004 where the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Colin Barnett MLA, promises to relocate a major Government Department to Bunbury and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware of these statements from the Opposition;
- (b) have any recent cost estimates been done for the relocation of the Minister's total Government department to Bunbury;
- (c) if yes, will the Minister provide these costings;
- (d) if the Minister's department was moved to Bunbury how many public servants would be involved in such a move;
- (e) does the Minister have departmental information on the willingness of these public servants to move to Bunbury;
- (f) if the public servants are not willing to move to Bunbury, how would this proposal affect their employment security; and
- (g) does this proposal have the support of the CSPU/CSA on behalf of its members?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) Yes, I am aware of the Opposition promise in this regard. However, in eight years in office the Coalition did not relocate one Government agency to a regional area.  
  
The Gallop Government, on the other hand, has moved to create a Regional Power Corporation, headquartered in a regional area, but the Liberals have blocked the legislation in the Legislative Council.
- (b)-(g) The Leader of the Opposition has a promise for every person but no plan to pay for them. It is just one of nearly 400 unfunded promises made by Liberal and National Party members and as such has little credibility.  
  
The Leader of the Opposition would have little regard for the views of public servants in this matter. Given the lack of detail in the proposal, he may well be contemplating forced relocation or forced redundancy.