

REGIONS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES

1485. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

I thank the minister for sending me copies of the nine documents on economic perspectives for each of the nine regions.

Hon Tom Stephens: I did?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: You did. The minister actually signed the letter!

Hon Tom Stephens: Individually?

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Yes.

Hon Tom Stephens: My goodness.

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Six of the documents contained Hon Tom Stephens' photograph, two contained Hon Kim Chance's photograph and one contained a photograph of Mr Kucera.

- (1) How many copies of each of the documents were printed?
- (2) How many individuals, non-government organisations, public authorities and public bodies received the documents?
- (3) Did each recipient receive all nine documents or was he restricted to the document relating to his regional interests?
- (4) What was the total cost of preparation, production and distribution of the document?
- (5) Is that cost to be debited against the departmental budget, the minister's budget or the Australian Labor Party's campaign budget?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the honourable member for his question. I am pleased that he has taken such notice of these important documents. I hope that his interest is a reflection of the Opposition's interest in the nine regions and the role of the regional development commissions that work with those regions.

- (1) The regional economic perspectives is a set of nine documents, one for each region, and 3 000 copies of each regional document were printed.
- (2)-(3) Two thousand copies of the relevant regional document were supplied to each regional development commission to distribute. In addition, the Department of Local Government and Regional Development mailed full sets of the nine documents. One hundred and eight were sent to government agencies, nine to regional development commissions, 13 to WA Government overseas offices, five to individuals and non-government agencies, 27 to Western Australian federal members of Parliament - maybe some will now be able to find regional Western Australia - 36 to members of the Legislative Council, 57 to members of the Legislative Assembly and 13 to ministers. If Hon Derrick Tomlinson does not want to receive a set in future, there may be the opportunity for us to make a saving.
- (4) The cost was \$42 532, and an additional \$735 was spent on postage.
- (5) The cost was debited against the department. This is consistent with past practice. Costs were debited to the Department of Commerce and Trade when similar documents were produced and distributed in 1996, 1999 and 2001. Perhaps the member could advise whether he wants to be sent copies of the document in the future years of the long life of the Gallop Government.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Please do.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: We look forward to sending them.