

CABINET MEETING, BUNBURY, INVITATIONS TO MEET THE MINISTER

883. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the invitation from the Premier to “meet the minister”, which has been widely distributed to the community prior to the cabinet meeting in Bunbury next Monday, 1 November.

- (1) What was the total number, method of distribution and who were the recipients of this invitation?
- (2) What was the total cost of production, processing and distribution?
- (3) Who paid for the exercise, the taxpayers or the Labor Party?
- (4) Is it now standard practice for the public to have to apply for a 15-minute appointment with a government minister and qualify via a subjective selection process for the privilege to be heard?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) A total of 10 700 invitations were printed and 10 520 were distributed by Australia Post householder mail to all residents in the Bunbury electorate.
- (2) The cost of production and processing was \$810 and distribution \$1 020.44.
- (3) Like all costs associated with community-regional cabinets going back well over a decade, this cost was met by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (4) Meet-the-minister meetings have become standard practice during community-regional cabinet meetings under the Gallop Government. They provide the opportunity to people who might not otherwise have it to raise their personal concerns directly with a government minister. These have proved to be -

Hon Norman Moore: And the minister’s profile, hopefully!

Hon KIM CHANCE: I’m sorry?

Hon Norman Moore interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There will be no assistance with the answers.

Hon KIM CHANCE: These have proved to be a very popular part of the cabinet program.

As one of the ministers who engages in the meet-the-minister process, I add that from my own view it has been an extremely effective process and one in which ministers do get to meet people who might not otherwise be able to get an appointment or might be unable to come to Perth to meet with them. In terms of the selection process, which is referred to in the question as a subjective selection process, we accept applications to meet ministers on a first come, first served basis, not on a subjective basis.