

LAND TAX — CUTS FOR PROPERTY INVESTORS

202. Hon Adele Farina to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Treasurer

I refer to the Treasurer's media statement of 21 October 2008, concerning land tax cuts for property investors, and ask —

- (1) Are the announced land tax cuts incorporated in the land tax rates specified in the Department of Treasury and Finance 'Land Tax 2008-09' brochure?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), why has the Treasurer issued the information brochures specifying the new land tax rates before the Parliament has considered legislation enabling the cuts?
- (4) How many 'Land Tax 2008-09' brochures have been printed and what is the total printing cost?
- (5) How many 'Land Tax 2008-09' brochures have been distributed and to whom?
- (6) What is the production and printing cost of the 'Land Tax 2008-09' brochures which were printed before the Land Tax cut announcement and had to be discarded?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Taxation Administration Act 2003 (TAA) contains a power, subject to certain conditions, to enable identified provisions of a bill to amend a taxation Act to operate by notice published in the Gazette prior to its passage in the Parliament. The amending legislation for the requisite changes to the Land Tax Act 2002 is currently before the Parliament. The notice for enabling the new land tax scale to be used for 2008-09 assessment purposes was Gazetted on 14 November 2008. Section 133 of the TAA provides that while the notice is in force, the provisions covered by the notice have effect as if those provisions have been passed without amendment and had come into operation. On that basis, State Revenue commenced the issue of 2008-09 assessments, which are accompanied by the brochure to ensure taxpayers are adequately informed.
- (4) 120,000 brochures were printed at a cost of \$13,871 (including GST).
- (5) Each 2008-09 land tax assessment notice issued is accompanied by a Land Tax 2008-09 brochure. As at 28 February 2009, 108,398 assessments have been issued. As in previous years, a copy of the brochure has been forwarded to every member of Parliament, for their information and assistance in handling constituent enquiries.