

SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY PROJECT

**149. Hon KATE DOUST to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Science and Innovation:**

What progress has the government made since it took office to boost Western Australia's bid for the Square Kilometre Array project?

**Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The government strongly supports the Square Kilometre Array project and has committed to participate in the project for Australia to win the right to host the Square Kilometre Array. The government has continued with the negotiation of native title matters relating to the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory site in Western Australia's mid-west, and it has approved the funding of the purchase of Boolardy station, which surrounds the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory. It has drafted a lease for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation for the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory and has continued to establish the International Radio Astronomy Research Centre.