

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, BAD DEBTS

2028. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming; Government Enterprises

- (1) What was the amount of bad debts written off for each department and agency within the Minister's portfolio since 19 February 2001?
- (2) Were any of these debts above \$10,000 and if so, what is the name of the person or company who owed the debt?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

GOLD CORPORATION

For Gold Corporation and its subsidiaries:

- (1) \$24,588.
- (2) Advance Aust Jewellery (\$17,197).

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION BOARD

- (1) Nil
- (2) Not applicable

INSURANCE COMMISSION OF WA

- (1) \$82,413

This amount excludes motor vehicle personal injury claims recovery write-offs against 156 debtors which, net of \$371,617 recoveries, total \$19,093,710.81. These write-offs are reported to Parliament on an annual basis (see tabled paper). Claims recoveries write-offs are claims costs written-off where the negligent driver or owner of the vehicle was in breach of the warranties of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Personal Injury insurance policy or where the vehicle was uninsured. [See paper No 1910.]

- (2) The legal advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office to the Insurance Commission of Western Australia is that the Insurance Commission is precluded from providing the name of the person or company which owed the debt by the combined operation of section 10B and section 42 of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia Act 1986.

Section 10B of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia Act 1986 – "Confidential Information" states

Nothing in this Act entitles the Minister to have information in the possession of the Commission concerning the affairs of the Commission in a form that –

- (a) discloses the identity and affairs of any person who is or has been a customer of the Commission in the person's capacity as such a customer; or
- (b) might enable the identity and affairs of any such person in that capacity to be ascertained.

Section 42(1) of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia Act 1986 – "Secrecy" states

- (1) A person to whom this section applies shall not, either directly or indirectly, except in the performance of a function or duty under or in connection with this or any other written law or as required by any other legal duty –
 - (a) make a record of, or divulge or communicate to any person, any information concerning the affairs of another person acquired by him by reason of his office or employment under or for the purpose of this Act; or
 - (b) produce to any person any document relating to the affairs of another person furnished for the purposes of this Act.

Penalty: \$2,500.

LOTTERYWEST

- (1) The amount of bad debts written off since 19 February 2001 were as follows:
19 February 2001 to 30 June 2002 Nil
Year ending 30 June 2003 \$46,662.35
From 1 July 2003 to 7 October 2003 Nil

- (2) The details of the bad debts were as follows:
Craigie Newsagency \$ 2,235.85
Donnybrook Newsagency \$ 8,964.33
Mandurah Newsagency \$35,462.17

RACING AND GAMING

Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor

- 1) \$32,322.
2) Coronado Hotel - \$17,377 – (non payment of liquor licence fee – licence cancelled on 18 July 2001).
Burswood Park Board; and Racing and Wagering Western Australia (including the Totalisator Agency Board)

- 1) Nil.
2) Not applicable.

Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association

- 1) \$223.
2) No.

WATER CORPORATION

- (1) The amount of bad debts written off since 19 February 2001 is \$738,337.72.
(2) Bad debts written off since 19 February 2001 which are over \$10,000 are included in the following table:

Name	Amount	Comments
Nyoongah Community Sydney Rd, Gngara	\$76,527.05	Water use charges. There were no prospects of receiving the outstanding arrears on the account. Approval was granted in 1999 to write off debt over a three year period from June 1999. An amount of \$76,527.05 was written off for June 2001.
L West value on	\$12,219.10	Vacant land charges raised since prior to 1989. The charges exceed land this property in Wagin. Investigations undertaken to trace owner including a skip trace have been unsuccessful. Last contact with owner was in 1994.
Centaur Mining and Goldfields. Exploration Ltd March 2001.	\$38,609.09	Centaur Mining own and operate gold and nickel operations in the KPMG were appointed Administrators of Centaur Mining on The company continues to operate and current charges have been paid by the Receiver/Manager. Debts prior to the Administration have been quarantined. The sale of the companies have been finalised and there was no dividends paid to unsecured creditors. However, the Administrator is intending to take legal proceedings against the directors of Centaur for insolvent trading and preferential payments to creditors. These proceedings will take 2-3 years to prosecute and the possibility of success is uncertain.
Chantry Holdings Pty Ltd standpipe. The	\$10,306.40	This charge relates to water consumption used through a permanent customer is disputing the liability of the charge, stating that the water was used when he did not own the standpipe. Chantry Holdings went into liquidation in June 2002.
Natural Habitats Landscaping Pty Ltd 7 cents in the	\$15,974.25	Standpipe charges from January 1998 to May 1998. Company went into Liquidation in April 1998. A first and final dividend at the rate of dollar has been declared for the company and a cheque was received for \$1,209.95. No further funds available.
Finesse Foods Pty Ltd advised	\$19,311.40	Industrial waste charges. Company in liquidation. Administrator has that no further distribution available to unsecured creditors.

