

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES, NUMBER, LOCATION, STAFF AND FUNDING

2763. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development
- (1) How many Regional Development (RD) offices are currently operating around Western Australia?
  - (2) Where are they located?
  - (3) What is the process for determining where RD offices should be located?
  - (4) Can the Minister detail the number of staff, job descriptions and wages for each staff member for each RD office?
  - (5) How many vehicles are being funded in RD offices around Western Australia?
  - (6) What is the total cost?
  - (7) What is the total wages bill and operating costs for all RD offices in Western Australia?
  - (8) What are the costs of leasing premises for each of the RD offices in Western Australia?
  - (9) How much has each Regional Development Commission administered by way of grants?
  - (10) What were the projects the grants were given for including projects from the 'Minor Grant Scheme'?
  - (11) How many projects has each RD office agreed to fund or partially fund, and of those, how many were never started or completed? (Please give details of these projects and amount of funds promised).
  - (12) Can the Minister detail the involvement Local Governments have with RD offices in regard to funding and assisting projects?
  - (13) Could the Minister please outline the process a proposed regional project would go through if it were to be considered for funding from an RD office? (Including the number of staff who would have involvement and the type of involvement that would be).
  - (14) Could the Minister provide a list of all board members for each of the RDCs in Western Australia, and their CVs?
  - (15) How are board members appointed to the RDCs in Western Australia?
  - (16) How many projects are on the waiting list to be looked at by each RDC in Western Australia?
  - (17) Can the Minister provide a list of these projects?

Hon JON FORD replied:

I have assumed that where the member refers to "Regional Development Offices" he is in fact referring to Regional Development Commissions (RDCs). Although I am Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, RDCs are responsible to their Board and to individual regional Ministers.

I have therefore sought assistance from the Hon Minister for the Midwest and Wheatbelt, the Hon Minister for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne and the Hon Minister for Peel and the Southwest in answering this question. However it is suggested that in the future the member may wish to refer questions regarding individual Regional Development Commissions to the relevant Minister.

- (1-2) Information regarding the office locations of the nine RDCs is available on the Department of Local Government and Regional Development web site at:  
<http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/regionDev/regionDevCommissions.asp>
- (3) The regional boundaries of the nine RDCs are defined in Schedule 1 of the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993. It is up to each RDC, in consultation with their Board and Minister, to determine where their office or offices are located within these boundaries.
- (4) I refer the member to the annual reports of the RDCs for details of the structures and position titles of each Commission, details of remuneration of Senior Officers and details of employee expenses such as wages.
- (5) Great Southern Development Commission:  
The Great Southern Development Commission currently has 6 vehicles.  
  
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission:  
The Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission has 3 vehicles.  
  
South West Development Commission:  
The South West Development Commission has 10 vehicles.

Peel Development Commission:  
The Peel Development Commission currently funds 4 vehicles.

Wheatbelt Development Commission:  
The Wheatbelt Development Commission has 6 vehicles.

Mid West Development Commission:  
The Mid West Development Commission has 3 vehicles.

Pilbara Development Commission:  
The Pilbara Development Commission has 5 vehicles.

Kimberley Development Commission:  
The Kimberley Development Commission has 4 vehicles.

Gascoyne Development Commission:  
The Gascoyne Development Commission has 5 vehicles.

- (6) Great Southern Development Commission:  
\$51,680.00 for financial year 2004/05.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission:  
\$48,274.99 for financial year 2004/05.

South West Development Commission:  
\$116,148.00 for financial year 2004/05.

Peel Development Commission:  
\$37,532.00 for financial year 2004/05.

Wheatbelt Development Commission:  
\$69,900.00 for financial year 2004/05.

Mid West Development Commission:  
\$49,940.00 for financial year 2004/05.

Pilbara Development Commission:  
\$51,958.31 for financial year 2004/05.

Kimberley Development Commission:  
\$40,924.70 for financial year 2004/05.

Gascoyne Development Commission:  
\$50,000.00 for financial year 2004/05.

- (7-12) I refer the member to the annual reports of the RDCs where this information is available.
- (13) The Regional Development Scheme is administered by each of the nine Regional Development Commissions. Applications are submitted to the RDC, assessed and presented to each Board and all applications with a value greater than \$20,000 are submitted to the relevant Regional Minister for final approval.
- (14) I refer the member to the annual reports of the RDCs where this information is available.
- (15) The process for appointing members to RDC boards is outlined in the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993.
- (16-17) RDCs do not have waiting lists for projects.