

WATER, KIMBERLEY EXPERT PANEL INVESTIGATION

71. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the minister representing the Premier:

I refer the Premier to the operations of the Kimberley expert panel investigation into the sourcing of water from the north of Western Australia, and I ask -

- (1) Will the Premier please provide an itemised breakdown of the expenses to date of the Kimberley expert panel investigation into sourcing water from the Kimberley?
- (2) Will the Premier please provide an itemised breakdown of the anticipated future expenses of the panel?
- (3) What travel to locations within Western Australia, Australia or overseas has been undertaken by members of the panel as part of its operations?
- (4) On what dates did this travel occur?
- (5) How many submissions has the panel received in regard to the sourcing of water from the Kimberley?
- (6) How many proposals for sourcing water from the Kimberley is the panel examining in detail?
- (7) What work has the panel undertaken with the Water Corporation as part of its operations?
- (8) How many meetings have members of the panel had with Water Corporation representatives as part of the investigations being undertaken?
- (9) Has the panel undertaken any public forums or meetings as part of its operations?
- (10) If so, where and when did these occur?
- (11) If not, why not?
- (12) When does the Premier anticipate that the panel will release its findings?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) As at 31 March 2005 expenses were: \$14 648 salaries, allowances and other staffing costs; \$146 536 services and contracts.
- (2) I am not in a position to provide an itemised list of future expenses. Specific aspects of the project such as tenders for specialist consultants are currently being developed.
- (3)-(4) The panel has undertaken the following travel as part of its operations: first panel meeting held in Hobart January 10-11. Panel meeting held in Perth February 20-21. Visit to the Kimberley March 28-April 1.
- (5) Thirty submissions with nearly 30 other submissions of a commentary nature were received.
- (6) The panel will assess in detail the three concepts identified through the expression of interest phase: pipeline, canal and ocean-going vessel. Eight of the submissions from the expressions of interest will be part of this investigation.
- (7) The panel requested CSIRO in partnership with the Water Corporation and the Department of Environment to produce a report providing contextual information for the panel, for example, current sources and demand.
- (8) The chair of the panel and the executive officer met with the Water Corporation on one occasion in February 2005.
- (9) The panel met with a number of representative groups on its visit to the Kimberley region. In some cases these meetings were open to the public. Community consultation will be undertaken on an ongoing basis throughout the study.
- (10) The meetings occurred between 29 March and 1 April in the Kimberley region.
- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) September 2005.