

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEGAL ADVICE, EXPENDITURE

1960. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern

For each department and agency within the Minister's portfolio, since 19 February 2001, will the Minister provide -

- (a) the total amount spent on legal advice;
- (b) the name of each provider of legal advice;
- (c) the amount paid to each provider of legal advice; and
- (d) the service for which the payments were made?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

Department of Agriculture:

- (a) \$79,495.33
- (b) The Crown Solicitor's Office
- (c) See (a)
- (d) Various advice on contracts and commercial matters.

In relation to other agencies (within the meaning of the Public Sector Management Act 1994) under the Agriculture Portfolio:

The Rural Business Development Corporation:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.

The Agriculture Protection Board:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.

Department of Fisheries

- (a)-(d) The requested information is tabled herewith [See paper No 1908.]

Forest Products Commission

- (a) \$65,717.40
- (b) Mallesons Stephen Jaques and Crown Solicitor's Office
- (c) Mallesons Stephen Jaques \$53,826.60 and Crown Solicitor's Office \$11,890.80
- (d) Legal services/counsel for contracts, Forest Products Act 2000, debtors, advice on tendering, Requests for Proposals, debt recovery.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) \$787.50 plus GST
- (b) Crown Solicitor's Office
- (c) Crown Solicitor's Office - \$787.50 plus GST
- (d) Legal advice on Mid West Internet Portal's privacy policy and terms of use. The Mid West Internet Portal, Ocean2Outback is a Commission project primarily funded by the Commonwealth's Networking the Nation Fund

Note: In addition to the above, the Crown Solicitor's Office also worked on an agreement for the operation of the portal by a third party. The notional value of work provided to date is \$6,231.50 but MWDC will not be invoiced for this work ie it is provided free of charge.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) \$4970
- (b) Crown Solicitors Office
- (c) \$4970
- (d) Legal advice on "the Ability to undertake sponsorship activity under the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993"

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) Since 19 February 2001 the Great Southern Development Commission paid amounts totalling \$597.10 for legal advice.
- (b) The Crown Solicitor's Office provided legal advice to the Commission.
- (c) Five amounts totalling \$597.10 were paid to the Crown Solicitor's Office.
- (d) These payments related to legal advice with respect to the possible recovery of moneys stolen by fraud, and legal exposure risks in transporting children from hinterland rural locations to the beach.