

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — VASSE RESEARCH STATION

1283. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Department of Agriculture and Food's Vasse research station.

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff are employed at the facility and what are the position titles?
- (2) What projects are planned or underway at the centre?
- (3) Are any plans or investigations underway relating to the sale of the centre?
- (4) What plans does the state government have in place to utilise the centre into the future?

Hon MARK LEWIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Five FTE occupy the Vasse research station office building, being an agricultural operative, a development officer, a biosecurity officer, an analyst programmer, and a senior technical officer.
- (2) A trial managed by the Western Dairy research hub focused on increasing productivity from dairy cows through alternative feeding systems will commence on 11 November 2016.
- (3) The Vasse research facility has been identified as being surplus to requirements. Initial clearances are now being pursued so that the process of preparing the facility for sale may commence.
- (4) A share milker is currently leasing the land, cows and dairy to 30 April 2017. The Department of Agriculture and Food will continue to review opportunities as they arise.