

CALM, DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

2374. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I refer the Parliamentary Secretary to question on notice No. 2024, asked on 16 September 2003, and ask -

- (a) what is the reason for the two debts owed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, of \$20,000 each;
- (b) why were these debts written off; and
- (c) did the Minister, as Minister, approach the Minister for the Environment regarding this debt?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

- (a) A Deed of Arrangement between the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Shire of Shark Bay dated 16 April 1996, effective from 1 July 1995, provided for an annual contribution of \$40,000 to Fisheries WA from the Monkey Mia Trust Account for the employment of a Fisheries Officer (Tom Pepper) in Shark Bay.

The invoices in question, numbered HO2146 and HO2165, were issued for funding of wages for Mr Tom Pepper for the periods ending 31 December 2000 and 30 June 2001 respectively but have never been paid.

- (b) In 1997/98, the Monkey Mia Reserve Management Committee proposed that, due to lack of funds, the arrangement be terminated. Correspondence and negotiations between CALM and the Department of Fisheries continued until, in December 2000, CALM unilaterally advised that all payments from the Monkey Mia Reserve Trust Account ceased as at 1 July 2000.
- (c) Yes