

BUILDING ENTERPRISE CENTRES

162. Mr T.K. WALDRON to the Minister for Small Business:

Given the ministerial statement today regarding the future of business enterprise centres across Western Australia, does the minister concede that, as a result of his statement, BEC managers will now be forced to seek other employment?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

No. I indicated today that we need to look at the entire process of business enterprise centres to ensure that they effectively provide services to small business. A major review has been going on for a long time. We must ensure that the recommendations arising from this process are discussed with people involved. At the end of that process, we will adopt a system aimed at providing the best outcome. Some BECs are working on excess capacity, and others are working very effectively. I want to ensure that the best outcome for small business is achieved with BECs placed in the right locations. At the end of this process, that will happen.