

LOW EMISSION ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND — PROJECTS

156. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to this year's Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill and the re-cashflow of \$3.9 million, which relates to the low emission energy development fund.

- (1) Which projects have not met their agreed milestone targets, and what milestone targets are they?
- (2) Why have the projects not reached the agreed milestone targets?
- (3) When does the minister expect the projects to reach these milestone targets?
- (4) What measures are in place to monitor and audit the development of projects once they are approved for LEED funding?
- (5) Can the minister explain the \$145 000 in grant savings relating to the LEED fund?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The two projects that have been approved for funding and have proceeded, being the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre oil mallee project, which is an excellent project that Hon Peter Collier and I announced last week—we even got to sit in a harvester, which was very exciting—and the Carnegie wave power demonstration plant, have met the agreed milestone targets. However, there have been some changes to the timing of some of those milestone targets for both projects, which is not unusual for projects of this kind. The milestone targets form part of their funding agreements, which are commercially confidential.
- (4) I have been advised that all projects are required to enter into a formal funding agreement with the Department of Environment and Conservation, which sets out agreed milestone targets required for the payment of LEED funds. When proponents reach the milestone targets, they are required to provide supporting evidence to the department's satisfaction before the payment is made.
- (5) The grant saving was part of the government's reduction in grants announced in the 2009–10 state budget.