

AGRICULTURE — DOPPLER RADAR

377. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the state government's investment of \$23 million in Doppler radar technology to provide much needed radar coverage with more precise weather information for farm businesses and rural communities across the Agricultural Region.

- (1) Has the entire \$23 million been spent?
- (2) If no to (1), what is the balance and how will the remaining funds be spent?
- (3) Are future Doppler radar expansions planned for locations other than Newdegate, South Doodlakine and Watheroo?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) There is a potential underspend over that \$23 million, of which \$100 000 will be reallocated in line with standard budget processes. The good news is that there is another \$5 million funding for the upgrade of three coastal weather radars that are owned by the Bureau of Meteorology. These are at Geraldton, Albany and Esperance.

If the member is a BOM follower like me, he might have noticed that there has been some difficulty in getting on to the Albany one for some time as the upgrade is undertaken. I also make the comment that an increasing number of states are becoming concerned that they have to pick up the cost of providing what is very much a federal government responsibility.