

PEEL REGION — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDING

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.53 pm]: I appeal to the Minister for Regional Development to urgently correct the imbalance in royalties for regions funding received by the Peel region. As I highlighted during the recent budget estimates committee deliberations, despite the Peel region being the third-highest royalty generator for the state, despite our rapid growth and despite the Peel region having the second highest regional population behind the South West, our share of the \$800 million fund was a paltry \$8.4 million in 2010–11. This is outrageous when we consider that \$334 million went to the Pilbara, \$146 million to the Kimberley, and \$45 million to the Wheatbelt. Although I do not begrudge money going to these areas, the Peel is simply not receiving its fair share of the pie. We already know that the Peel’s population growth is outstripping the provision of badly needed infrastructure in the region. We also know that the economy of the Peel remains vulnerable to the impact of financial downturns. Our unemployment rate is much higher than the state and national rates, and more people in the Peel are suffering from mortgage stress. Pensioners, people on fixed incomes, self-funded retirees and families are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet while the Barnett government continues to increase the cost of basic services, including electricity, gas and water. I call upon the minister to give Mandurah and the Peel its fair share of the royalties for regions pie. We need funding now for projects like the expansion of Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre, new accommodation for the region’s non-government organisations and volunteer groups, making the Greenlands Road–Forrest Highway intersection safer, a new traffic bridge in Mandurah, and a CAT bus system in central Mandurah, to name a few—and, minister, give Mandurah pensioners access to the Country Age Pension Fuel Card enjoyed by other regional pensioners. All I want is a fairer slice of the royalties for regions pie.