

Division 26: Peel Development Commission, \$4 003 000 —

Mr M.W. Sutherland, Chairman.

Mr B.J. Grylls, Minister for Regional Development.

Ms M. De Lacey, Chief Executive Officer.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Mandurah.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: On page 321, in the first dot point towards the bottom of the page, I note the significant issues impacting on the agency. Recognition is given to the Peel region's contribution to mining and petroleum, it being the third highest contributor. As the minister knows, I have highlighted that in the Parliament. I am pleased that the minister also did so recently during question time. My question relates to the royalties for regions funding for the region, particularly for the Nambeelup industrial area, which is referred to in the second dot point on page 322. This has been on the books for quite a while, and there are some significant environmental constraints and issues regarding the development of the Nambeelup estate. It is the major industrial estate. Through the minister to the CEO, maybe we can be given an update on the progress of the development of the Nambeelup estate and be told whether any consideration is being given to funding that major piece of infrastructure through the royalties for regions allocation.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I am happy for Ms De Lacey to answer that question.

Ms M. De Lacey: Nambeelup is our most important strategic industrial site in the region, and we have been working on it for some time. The planning works are underway, as they have been for some time. Although it is significantly strategically located, it is also constrained by environmental issues. A number of design studies are happening, and a number of planning studies and water studies, in particular, are happening. They have to be done.

[12.30 pm]

We expect that the draft structure plan for Nambeelup should be completed by 2010, provided everything else goes well. There is a privately owned lot of land there, which we anticipate will be the first lot of land to come onto the market. It is already zoned as industrial and contains around 20 lots within it. We give it a time frame of about 18 months to two years but, again, that is dependent on environmental and other kinds of factors. We anticipate it is likely that we may get royalties for regions applications for a variety of those kinds of planning studies when they are outside of normal government business.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have a further question for the minister; perhaps, to Ms De Lacey again. The Nambeelup estate is some 1 300 hectares of land and the minister has indicated a staged approach to its development. In terms of environmental constraints, are we waiting on any further reports from environmental agencies with regard to the go-ahead of the Nambeelup estate?

Ms M. De Lacey: The major one is the local water and drainage management study that is being conducted by the Department of Water, and it is due for completion in 2010. We are trying to simultaneously run as many of the studies as we can so that we are not waiting for one study to be completed before we begin the next one.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: One final question if I could just —

The CHAIRMAN: We have run out of time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It will be very brief. We never get to go on to the Peel Development Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Quickly.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The third dot point on page 322 refers to the wetlands and waterways of the Peel-Harvey system and the release of the Peel-Harvey water quality improvement plan in 2008-09. Can the royalties for regions funding source be available for protection of the environment?

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Mandurah, we have to finish.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I am happy to answer that when we leave the chamber, member. However, the answer is that no-one is told that he or she cannot apply for the contestable grant funding, so environmental projects to do with the Peel-Harvey water quality improvement plan can apply to the contestable funding rounds.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Thank you.

The appropriation was recommended.