

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — EGG MARKETING

1975. Ms L. Mettam to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the former State Labor Government's deregulation of egg marketing in 2004, and the *Marketing of Eggs Legislation Expiry Regulations 2005* which outlined the process for distribution of the Egg Marketing Board's assets to a producer-owned egg marketing company based on cooperative principles, and I ask:

- (a) how were producers selected for the new producer-owned egg marketing company (Golden Egg Farms, now known as the AAA Egg Company) based on cooperative principles;
- (b) what consideration was given by the former State Labor Government to those egg producers excluded from the new producer-owned egg marketing company to ensure that they were not commercially disadvantaged by the gifting of the Egg Marketing Board's assets to the new producer-owned egg marketing company;
- (c) what redress was made available to egg producers that were excluded from the producer-owned egg marketing company; and
- (d) has the producer-owned egg marketing company since formed a partnership with Finbar Group to develop land?

**Mr D.A. Templeman replied:**

- (a)–(c) On the 19 August 2004, Parliament passed the Marketing of Eggs Amendment Bill 2004 that provided for the expiration of the *Marketing of Eggs Act 1945*, and the dissolution of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board and the transfer of the Board's assets to a producer-owner egg marketing company established on co-operative principles. As part of that decision, the Government set up a transition advisory committee to deal with all aspects of the transfer of assets to the new producer-owned egg marketing company including membership of that new company. Membership concerns raised were dealt with at the time.
- (d) This is a private commercial matter between the two companies concerned.