

SOIL REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM — CARNARVON

676. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the soil replenishment program conducted in Carnarvon.

- (1) Is the minister aware that many growers consider they have received only a small allocation of the soil required despite the stated 12 338 cubic metres delivered being approximately 21 per cent more than was estimated to have been required?
- (2) How was the amount of soil delivered recorded and accounted for?
- (3) Given these mounting concerns, will the minister order a survey of the pit the soil was taken from?
- (4) Was a competitive tender process used to procure the cartage of the soil?
- (5) If yes to (4), was the lowest cost applicant awarded the contract?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I do hope the member is not suggesting that one of the earthmovers in Carnarvon is dodgy. I really hope that is not what he is suggesting. I hope, in particular, that the member is not aligning himself with one of the earthmovers against another earthmover.

That having been said, the answer to the question is —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is trying to provide the answer.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I was just giving a bit of advice in advance of that.

- (1)–(2) The soil volume was confirmed by the Loadrite receipt provided by the contractor from the delivery tipper truck and certificate of bulk density of the area being evacuated by a separate materials engineering laboratory. Topsoil was not provided for roads or in areas not suitable for farming, such as within close proximity to floodways or spillways.
- (3) No. The pit area was remediated as per a rehabilitation plan, which involved a redistribution of topsoil from across the site to minimise depth of the disturbed area and maintain a natural seed base on the site so that vegetation can be established to protect the area from erosion.
- (4) A competitive procurement process involving requests for quote from four local contractors was undertaken with only two quotes received. The procurement process was approved by the Department of Finance.
- (5) Yes.