

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — HEADQUARTERS REDEVELOPMENT

5697. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the \$234 million redevelopment of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) headquarters in South Perth, and I ask:

- (a) when the redevelopment is completed, can the Minister identify what service facilities will be accommodated on that site;
- (b) what research programs will be carried out within the new facility;
- (c) will there be any private companies housed in the new headquarters and if so, who will they be; and
- (d) when the redevelopment is completed will DAFWA continue to be a tenant in Technology Park?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) The redevelopment will provide all facilities appropriate to DAFWA's metropolitan needs apart from its site-specific requirements at key entry/exit points such as Perth airport. The South Perth site will comprise office accommodation and a range of specialist laboratories, glass houses and controlled-environmental rooms related to DAFWA's biosecurity, resource management and research activities; and will complement its network of regional offices and research stations.

- (b) The new facilities will not, in themselves, impact on the range of research programs undertaken by DAFWA — these being devised on the basis DAFWA's Strategic Plan for the relevant period.

The facilities will be designed to provide the flexibility needed to fulfil DAFWA's current Strategic Plan (covering the period 2011-15) and any directional changes identified through the longer-term vision for our agriculture and food (agrifood) sector being developed under the current 'Toward 2020 and beyond' process.

- (c) DAFWA's business model focuses on its close collaboration with public and private sector innovation partners so as to maximise the rate of innovation in the entire agriculture and food sector.

Discussions are underway with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to establish a collaborative facility involving DAFWA and other private and public sector innovators. To be known as the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC), the State Government will make a \$30 million capital commitment to this centre. There are no companies currently identified or targeted for housing in the AEGIC facilities. Over time, the public and private partners in delivering better outcomes for the export grain sector will change.

There will also be opportunities for a limited number of agrifood innovation companies to establish their own facilities on a specific part of the South Perth site on a land lease basis; and discussions are underway with InterGrain Pty Ltd — a cereal breeding company focused on the Western Australian industry and of which the State Government is the largest shareholder.

- (d) DAFWA is not currently, nor will it become, a tenant of Technology Park — its South Perth site being vested in the department and adjacent to the Technology Park site.