

SCIENCE — ANIMAL RESOURCE CENTRE

735. Dr D.J. Honey to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Science:

I refer to the Animal Resource Centre, and ask:

- (a) How many staff are currently employed by the Centre;
- (b) How many organisations expressed interest in taking over the Centre;
- (c) How many organisations is the government still negotiating with;
- (d) Have any organisations expressed an interest in taking over the Centre fully staffed and operating;
- (e) Will the government allow any organisation to take over the Centre and remain at its current purpose built premises;
- (f) If not, has the government identified potential sites for a new facility;
- (g) Will the government contribute to the capital cost of establishing a new purpose built facility; and
- (h) When does the government expect to be able to announce who will take over the Centre and related details as to where it will be located and how many staff it will employ?

Ms J.L. Hanns replied:

- (a) 6 staff (as at 13 June 2023).
- (b) Three.
- (c) One.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd has taken over the Centre and will temporarily remain at the existing premises.
- (f) Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd is purchasing a site at Technology Park, Bentley, as the long-term location for the facility.
- (g) Yes. The Government has committed \$7 million in loans for fit out and new equipment for the new facility.
- (h) Refer to answers (e) and (f). It will be up to Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd to determine how many staff will be employed at the new facility.