

TRADE MISSION TO TUSCANY

258. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Will the Minister advise of the names and positions of the Government officers who took part in the recent trade mission to Tuscany?
- (2) How many individuals took part in the trade mission, including local business representatives?
- (3) What financial contribution did the government make to the travel or accommodation costs of the local business representatives who attended the mission?
- (4) What was the total cost of the mission to the Government?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The trade mission to Italy visited Tuscany, Bologna and Milan from 26 May to 4 June 2000. The mission was in support of the Western Australian Government's Memorandum of Understanding with the Tuscan Regional Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, the Hon John Bradshaw, MLA, representing the Minister for Mines; Tourism; Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming; the Hon Norman Moore, MLC; led the mission. The following government officers participated:

Mr Paolo Amaranti, Executive Director, Industry Services Division, Department of Commerce and Trade, representing the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Trade, advising on general commercial opportunities;

Mr Michael Dickson, Regional Manager - Europe, Department of Commerce and Trade;

Mr Rod Kemp, European Manager, Western Australian Tourism Commission advising on tourism opportunities; and

Ms Agnes Kachelhoffer, Trade and Investment Officer, Western Australian Trade Office, London.

- (2) 16 individuals participated in the mission comprising 5 Government representatives and 11 business representatives.
- (3) Under the Department of Commerce and Trade's Export Market Support Scheme, private business representatives may apply for funding of 30 per cent of the cost of a return economy airfare to Italy. As at 30 June 2000, the Department of Commerce and Trade was assessing the applications for funding under this scheme and had not made any payments relating to this mission. It is estimated that claims under this scheme for the mission will total approximately \$5 000.
- (4) A search of the Department of Commerce and Trade's Financial Management Information System has identified payments totalling \$51 523.98 which can be attributed to this mission. Additional expenses of approximately \$15 727.00 which are yet to be paid have also been identified. The unpaid expenses include payments under the Export Market Support Scheme. The anticipated total expenditure by the Department is \$67 250.98.

The Department of Commerce and Trade does not have information on expenses incurred by other agencies which participated in this mission. The Member should direct his question to the responsible Minister to obtain this information.