

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES — REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDS
3168. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Premier

I refer to the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) Regional Partnerships Funds, and ask:

- (a) will the Premier provide the following:
 - (i) the name, number and timetable of projects proposed for Western Australia; and
 - (ii) the State Government commitment for each project in dollar terms and 'in kind' support?
- (b) has the Premier or relevant Minister or Department(s) made contact with Prime Minister Rudd or the relevant Commonwealth Minister as to keeping commitments made in writing or otherwise before the Federal Election;
 - (i) if yes, what was the response;
- (c) what action does the Premier intend to take on this issue;
- (d) if the Federal Government reneges on this issue, will the State Government fully fund the proposed projects;
 - (i) if not, why not;
- (e) is the Premier aware that many of the projects have already started, plant and materials ordered and legal commitments made;
 - (i) if yes, will the Premier ensure that these projects come to fruition; and
- (f) is the Premier aware (case in point) that the Nannup Timewood Centre project showcasing the world's biggest wooden clock and Telecentre upgrade will be seriously compromised without his direct intervention on the Rural Partnerships Issue?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a)
 - (i) The Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) administers the Regional Partnerships Funds. The State Government does not have responsibility for providing information about Commonwealth Government funding programmes.
 - (ii) The State Government funds and provides in-kind support to a large number of regional projects through its own funding programmes.
The State Government does not have a list of any proposed projects under the Commonwealth's Regional Partnerships Funds. Therefore it is not possible to provide details of any State Government funding to these proposed projects.
- (b) The Premier is advised that the Minister for Regional Development has discussed this matter with the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
 - (i) The Premier is advised that discussions are continuing.
- (c) The Minister for Regional Development has carriage of this issue on behalf of the State Government.
- (d) The State Government has a number of funding programmes which are available to applicants seeking funding for projects in regional areas.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- (e) The Commonwealth has advised that there will be a proper process for accessing funding consistent with the recommendations of the recent Australian National Audit Office audit into the Regional Partnerships Funds. The Commonwealth has advised that all proponents will need to apply and satisfy criteria for proper management and cost controls. The Commonwealth also advises that proponents have been advised to wait until a properly executed funding agreement is in place before starting any project.
 - (i) Not applicable.

- (f) The Minister for Regional Development is currently in discussions with the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government about the Regional Partnerships Funds matter.