

WA MEAT INDUSTRY AUTHORITY — FUNDING

1067. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 3, page 882: Western Australian Meat Industry Authority. and the Total Cost of Asset Investment Program, and ask:

- (a) why are there no Forward Estimates on this program;
- (b) what allocation of funding is to be set aside to build the regional saleyards in Katanning;
- (c) what allocation of funding is to be set aside to build the regional saleyards in Mount Barker;
- (d) how much money realised from the sale of the Midland Saleyards remains after the building of the Muchea Facility; and
- (e) if there is any money remaining from the sale of the Midland Saleyards, then where has the remainder of the money been distributed?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) There are no agreed capital works plans expenditures required to be in Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Forward Estimates at this stage.

I am reviewing the Western Australian Saleyard Strategy as it currently stands and considering options for its future implementation. Officers of the Department of Agriculture and Food are developing a range of options for me to consider in relation to Government's future role in livestock saleyards in this state. Stakeholder consultation is occurring on the matter including with WAMIA.

- (b) No specific recommendation regarding allocation will be made until I have considered the saleyards options paper to be developed by the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (c) No specific recommendation regarding allocation will be made until I have considered the saleyards options paper to be developed by the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (d) I am advised by Western Australian Meat Industry Authority that the sale of land assets to date will realise \$79 million and the cost of the Muchea Facility is expected to be approximately \$55 million. This may leave approximately \$24 million. Please note these figures are interim and there is further land that may be sold when the Midland Saleyard site is fully decommissioned. Details of decommissioning and remediation and other land issues are still being finalised with WAMIA and other agencies and this could impact on the residual amount.
- (e) I am informed the funds are in accounts currently managed by the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority. The usual process for Government in these cases is for the funds to go through the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee for consideration and allocation.