

CARNARVON GROWERS' FLOOD RECOVERY FUND — PROJECTS

6172. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the December 2010 Carnarvon floods and the Carnarvon Growers' Flood Recovery Fund, and in particular the topsoil loss project, I ask:

- (a) how much topsoil was provided for the project for growers to access;
- (b) from where was the topsoil sourced from;
- (c) was there any testing of the soil that was provided to the growers prior to it being made available for distribution to the affected plantations; and
 - (i) if not why not;
 - (ii) if yes, was the soil testing done in a laboratory facility or was it a field test;
 - (iii) what were the results of that analysis;
 - (iv) was there any deficiency shown in the soil as a result of that analysis that may have an adverse effect on crops;
- (d) has any of the soil provided from the topsoil pit been analysed since it has been delivered to the plantations; and
 - (i) if so, what were the results of that analysis;
- (e) has any analysis been conducted and shown a salt content in the topsoil; and
 - (i) if so, when and what was the salinity status of the soil; and
 - (ii) was the soil testing done in a laboratory facility or was it a field test?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) More than 144,000 cubic metres.
- (b) North River Road and Mc Glades Road soil pits.
- (c) Yes.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Field and laboratory tests were conducted.
 - (iii) Soil was suitable.
 - (vi) Virgin soil is deficient in Phosphorous.
- (d) Yes, tested for salt content.
 - (i) Range of very low to moderate total salt content: generally low salt content.
- (e) Yes.
 - (i) July–August; very low to moderate total salt content.
 - (ii) Field test.