

TOMATO GROWERS IN CARNARVON SHIRE

1134. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

Regarding the Agricultural Produce Commission's poll of Western Australian Tomato Producers, I ask:

- (a) would the Minister please advise the number of tomato growers there are in the Carnarvon Shire;
- (b) would the Minister please advise the percentage of tomato growers in the Carnarvon Shire in relation to the rest of the State;
- (c) would the Minister please advise the volume (in kilograms) of tomatoes grown in the Carnarvon Shire;
- (d) would the Minister please advise the percentage of volume of tomatoes produced in the Carnarvon Shire in relation to the rest of the State; and
- (e) would the Minister please advise the number of tomato growers from the Carnarvon Shire who were polled in the recent APC Tomato Growers Poll?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) There is no statistical database of tomato growers in Western Australia.
The Carnarvon Growers Association organised and assisted vegWA to establish a list of commercial tomato growers in the Carnarvon area for the purposes of the recent Agricultural Produce Commission (APC) tomato ballot which was conducted under APC polling regulations. There were 69 Carnarvon entries on the polling list supplied to the APC for the purposes of the poll.
- (b) In the absence of a statistical database the only information available is the APC polling list which puts the percentage of commercial tomato growers in Carnarvon at 25 per cent of the growers in WA.
- (c) No Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics are available on a regional level.
- (d) ABS figures for 20007/08 indicate production of 12 317 000 kilograms statewide, however those figures carry a disclaimer of possible error of between 10 and 25 per cent.
- (e) 69