

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — PUBLIC SECTOR RECRUITMENT FREEZE —
GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

5457. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the current public sector recruitment freeze and its impact upon grant funding recipients' ability to use said funding to hire staff for the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) managed research projects, and I ask:

- (a) how many individual grant-funded projects are unable to hire staff to fill designated roles because of the recruitment freeze;
- (b) what is the dollar value of unspent funding on each individual project;
- (c) how many total full time equivalent positions are left unfilled as a result of the recruitment freeze; and
- (d) why has the State Government not made an exception to the hiring freeze to allow for unspent grant funding to be spent and research projects to proceed?

Mr D.C. Nalder replied:

- (a)–(d) To ensure that externally funded projects were not impacted by the freeze DAFWA re-assigned existing staff to meet contractual obligations. DAFWA was also granted an exemption to fill 34 positions funded from external sources.