

REGIONAL INVESTMENT FUND ADVERTISING

1124. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

I refer to regional investment fund advertising on regional television.

- (1) How much money has already been spent?
- (2) What is the proposed budget for this advertising?
- (3) How can the minister justify her assertion that 3 000 jobs have been created as a result of that funding?
- (4) Are the jobs permanent?
- (5) Given that claim, why has the Government not built the Cervantes to Lancelin road, which would create \$700 million worth of investment?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) \$41 570.85.
- (2) \$125 000.
- (3) The number of estimated jobs created is based on information provided by successful fund proponents and collated by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development and each of the nine regional development commissions.
- (4) Some of these jobs are permanent and either full time or part time. Other jobs are contract positions for a defined period.
- (5) The Gallop Labor Government recognises the strategic and economic importance of the construction of the Lancelin to Cervantes section of Indian Ocean Drive. However, the Government also has an obligation to meet its election commitments to increase funding for health, education and community safety.

Hon Kim Chance: Hear, hear!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Hear, hear! In order to achieve these commitments, it has been necessary to reprioritise funding from other areas, including the road program. As a result, many important road projects across the State have had to be deferred, including this project.

As the member will be well aware, the road network is upgraded on a priority basis and the timing of the Lancelin to Cervantes project will be reconsidered as part of future budgetary processes. In the interim, pre-construction activities are continuing to ensure that, should funding become available, the project can proceed without delay. The minister will continue to work closely with those groups that have a direct interest in the development of the road.