

COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND — ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

68. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:

I have a supplementary question. As the minister controlling royalties for regions, why can he not make a decision to fulfil his promise made under that fund?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I think the member will be very aware that I have been very open in my public commentary on royalties for regions. We are in the very unusual circumstance in which royalties flowing into the state on the income side of the ledger is over 20 per cent of the state's income. I have made the public comment that it is reasonable for us to find a strategy through the Liberal–National government budget processes to manage the broader state budget. I am committed to that. Therefore, it is reasonable that I take those to the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee and take it through the budget process to the 2014–15 budget. The public, the opposition and people living in regional Western Australia will hold us accountable for that decision.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.