

STATE BUDGET - DIVISIONS 63, 64 AND 65 - KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,  
PILBARA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION -  
APPROPRIATION AND FORWARD ESTIMATES

1250. Mr G. Snook to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

- (1) I refer to the Kimberley Development Commission, Budget Paper No 2, Volume 3, Page 1092, under Appropriation and Forward Estimates, and ask, will the Minister confirm that this year's appropriation shows an 'in real terms' reduction in the funding for the Kimberley Development Commission?
- (2) I refer to the Pilbara Development Commission, Budget Paper No 2, Volume 3, Page 1102, under Appropriation and Forward Estimates, noting that dot point one highlights the massive expansion in the resources and mining industry in the Pilbara, and ask, how does the Minister justify the massive drop in appropriation of funds to the Pilbara Development Commission?
- (3) I refer to the Gascoyne Development Commission, Budget Paper No 2, Volume 3, Page 1113, under Appropriation and Forward Estimates, noting that the Treasurer acknowledged in his Budget Speech that regional Western Australia produces the 'life-blood' of Western Australia's economy, and ask, why has the Minister not appropriated 'real terms' increases in funding, but, in fact, decreased the funding?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

- (1) For the Kimberley Development Commission  
The reduction in appropriation predominantly corresponds to a reduction in grant payments, and in particular several major grants paid via the Commission in relation to one-off policy commitments totalling \$750,000 made in the context of the last State election during 2005/06. Excluding one off grant payments, the Commission base budget for 2006/07 is \$1,497,000 compared with 2005/06 which was \$1,508,000.
- (2) For the Pilbara Development Commission  
The apparent decrease in the Pilbara Development Commission's budget in 2006/07 is a result of the Pilbara Development Commission administering a grants program called the Pilbara Fund. During the 2004/2005, 2005/2006 financial years the allocation of funds (\$5 million p.a.) was through the Commissions annual appropriation. For the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 the allocation of funds is through the Regional Infrastructure Fund.
- (3) For the Gascoyne Development Commission  
The decrease in the Gascoyne Development Commission's budget in 2006/07 is a result of the completion of the Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre building in the previous year. In real terms the budget has increased 2.45%. In addition, funding has been provided for the management of the Cultural Centre over the next four years.