

FAMILY FARM BUSINESS REVIEW PROGRAM

521. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

With reference to the family farm business review program, which was introduced by the previous Government to assist farmers in accessing consultants for up to four hours to review their business position, I ask -

- (1) Has the program been scrapped?
- (2) If so, what is the minister's reasoning, when 55 per cent of clients in the program were from the central agricultural region, which has been experiencing the most adverse seasonal conditions ever?
- (3) What prior warning was given to the farming community to inform it that the program would be scrapped?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) The family farm business review was part of the state support package which closed on 31 August 2001 after being extended by a month.
- (2) The program had been concluded; moreover, demand for the service had declined very significantly.
- (3) Notification in the media that the scheme was to be extended by a month to 31 August 2001.