

INDIAN OCEAN CLIMATE INITIATIVE

**1110. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

Given that Western Australia has experienced the worst drought on record -

- (1) Can the minister ensure that funding for stage 3 of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative will be made available?
- (2) If so, how much funding will be made available?
- (3) Can the minister indicate how many personnel are currently employed on the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for providing some notice of the question.

- (1)-(2) Funding for stage 3 of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative is under consideration by the government; however, I am happy to assure the honourable member that I will do all I can to ensure adequate funding will be provided.
- (3) The Indian Ocean Climate Initiative employs a part-time chair. Research funded by the government under the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative has been conducted by commonwealth agencies - the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and the Bureau of Meteorology - on the basis of research deliverables, which complement more specific research or investigation programs conducted by the other IOCI stage 2 partners.

I was not entirely satisfied with that answer, because I think the honourable member needed to know more about the stage 2 process, so I asked for more information, which I have just received. Stage 2 of the IOCI operated on the basis that the majority of the research work was conducted by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO under contract; that is, these two agencies were contracted to perform particular research tasks and allocated their own staff to those tasks. However, the department estimates that this research effort was equivalent to the output of eight full-time staff within those agencies. In addition, the other IOCI partners - that is, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, the Forest Products Commission, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Department of Fisheries and the Water Corporation - conducted complementary research that was pooled to create the IOCI. Twelve officers of both state and commonwealth agencies made up the IOCI panel, which is effectively the management steering committee. The stage 2 process of the IOCI concluded on 30 June this year.