

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

1066. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 3, page 876, *Total Appropriations for the Rural Business Development Fund* and the drop of Total Appropriations from \$1,694,000 in the 2008–2009 budget to \$196,000 in the 2009–2010 budget, and ask:

- (a) what are the components of the decrease of appropriations for the coming financial year;
- (b) is this fund to be disbanded;
- (c) what scheme is planned to replace this service for farm business development; and
- (d) how many full-time equivalent jobs will be lost as a result of the reduction in funding?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) \$1.5m in 2008-09 for a new one year program titled FarmTraining WA
- (b) I assume the question relates to Rural Business Development Corporation, in which case the response is no.
- (c) The Australian Government FarmReady program commenced in February 2009 and provides training cost reimbursement to eligible persons. In addition a new two year \$0.5m State funded (from RBDC internal funds) FarmLink scheme commenced 1 July 2009 to provide for any gaps in eligibility for funding under the Australian Government FarmReady program.
- (d) Nil