

STONEVILLE RESEARCH STATION, CLOSURE

324. Hon KIM CHANCE to the minister representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Does the Government intend to close or wind down the Stoneville Research Station?
- (2) If so, what action will be taken to preserve the range of fruit tree varieties at Stoneville, which in some cases represent the only examples of their type in Western Australia?
- (3) Is it correct that many of these varieties have already been irrevocably lost because of tree pulling at the station?
- (4) Is it correct that WA fruit growers made a significant contribution to the original establishment of the Stoneville Research Station?
- (5) If yes to (4), does the Government intend to reinvest in the fruit industry the proceeds of any sale of the research station?
- (6) Has the Government considered opening another research station in a centre such as Donnybrook to replace the Stoneville Research Station?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Yes, it will close it.
- (2) They will be transferred to Manjimup Horticultural Research Institute.
- (3) No.
- (4) Some contribution was made by industry. Significant benefits have accrued to the industry from that investment.
- (5) Yes. The Government is currently examining the re-establishing of a post-harvest centre to support the vegetation and fruit industries as well as upgrading the post-entry quarantine facilities for fruit variety importations in Western Australia.
- (6) No.