

OLD-GROWTH FORESTS, GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING POLICY

460. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I refer the Premier to his Government's policy on old-growth forests and to the \$2 million cheque, which I am holding up and seek leave to table.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Mr P.D. OMODEI: That cheque was awarded to the shires of Manjimup, Bridgetown, Greenbushes and Nannup on 13 January this year for the Donnelly River Sky Jetty icon project.

- (1) Will the Premier please explain to the House why, despite the very public presentation of this cheque, the promised funds have still not been received by the councils after seven months?
- (2) How many other public relations cheques like this are there around Western Australia? I understand there are four of these cheques. How many of the other cheques have bounced in Western Australia?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(2) I am not informed of the details of the question the member has raised, but I will certainly make inquiries about it. It is interesting that there was an interjection from the member who represents the south west, and I will comment on his interjection. We have made strong commitments of money and have included them in our budget for three important projects in Bunbury. The fact that that money has not been spent has nothing to do whatsoever with the commitments of the Government of Western Australia but has a lot to do with the incapacity of the City of Bunbury to deliver on behalf of its ratepayers and citizens. I will look into the matter that has been raised. I have been given no notice of this issue. I will make sure that we get a proper response.