

BIOSECURITY INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEMES — GROWER PARTICIPATION

3691. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In regards to the new funding arrangements authorised under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, I ask:

- (a) with the introduction of the biosecurity industry funding schemes, as at 31 July 2010, how many growers provided the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) with a Notice of Opt-Out to opt-out of the Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Funding Schemes;
- (b) of the total Notice of Opt-Out notices that DAFWA received, how many were for the:
 - (i) grains, seed and hay scheme;
 - (ii) cattle scheme; and
 - (iii) sheep and goats scheme;
- (c) what is the percentage of growers who have remained with the Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Funding Scheme;
- (d) what is the percentage of growers who have remained with the Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Funding Scheme for the:
 - (i) grains, seed and hay scheme;
 - (ii) cattle scheme; and
 - (iii) sheep and goats scheme?
- (e) with staff cuts to DAFWA, who will do the inspections of the growers who have opted out;
- (f) once the applications are received from the growers who opted-out for refunds of contributions paid into the Cattle Industry Compensation Fund (CICF), due no later than 31 July 2011, how much will be left in the CICF account;
- (g) will the residue of the CICF account be transferred to the Industry Management Committees (IMC) account; and
- (h) if a partial amount is transferred to the IMC account:
 - (i) what proportion will be transferred; and
 - (ii) what will happen to the remainder of the funds in the CICF?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Department of Agriculture and Food

- (a) With respect to the 2010–2011 financial year, a total of 61 producers (individuals/entities) lodged Notices of Opt-Out within the allowed statutory deadline.
- (b) Some notices applied to more than one scheme — design of the notice allowed for a given producer to opt-out of all three schemes simultaneously.
 - (i) 46 of the 61 Notices registered affected the Grains, Seed and Hay Scheme,
 - (ii) 29 of the 61 Notices registered affected the Cattle Scheme, and
 - (iii) 45 of the 61 Notices registered affected the Sheep and Goats Scheme.
- (c) Within each of the relevant sectors the Department of Agriculture and Food estimates the percentage of growers opting out at less than one per cent.
- (d)
 - (i) More than 99 per cent of producers remain within the Grains, Seed and Hay Scheme,
 - (ii) More than 99 per cent remain within the Cattle Scheme, and
 - (iii) More than 99 per cent remain within the Sheep/Goat Scheme.
- (e) Monitoring of regulatory compliance will continue to be undertaken using a risk-based approach, irrespective of participation within an Industry Funding Scheme.
- (f) The Cattle Industry Compensation Fund was closed on 13 August 2010 (upon repeal of the Cattle Industry Compensation Act 1965).

- (g) The residue has been transferred to the new Cattle Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Account.
- (h)
 - (i) 88 per cent
 - (ii) \$714,000 has been transferred to the Agriculture Research Trust Account No. 1 for research projects and operation of the Western Australian Beef Council.