

DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS - EMPLOYMENT PROJECT FUNDING

**1132. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Local Government:**

No notice of this question has been given. Have any local government authorities in drought-affected areas received government funds for projects to assist local people in employment?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for the question. I assume that Hon Murray Criddle is asking me whether any local governments have received funding through the Department of Local Government and Regional Development.

**Hon Murray Criddle:** From the government.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** I would not know what the answer would be right across government. There may well have been. For example, Hon Jon Ford is the minister responsible for regional development. I would not know whether any money has been allocated under the range of funding sources that are available to community groups and local governments, or whether a local government has applied for such funding for the purposes of a project that may well have had an employment component. Likewise, I could not give a categorical answer, in which I would be confident of being correct, on whether money has been allocated under the local government area of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development - in other words, that half of the combined department. Off the top of my head, I suspect not. The government, through the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, does not actually allocate funding for the purpose of generating employment or assisting people to find employment. However, that is not to suggest that there may not have been programs under, for instance, the Department of Education and Training. Money may have been allocated under such programs. I am more than happy to see whether any funding has been allocated under my portfolio area of local government. I take that part of the question on notice.