

CARNARVON FLOODS — RECOVERY OPERATION

5860. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the Carnarvon floods in December 2010 and the Carnarvon Growers Flood Recovery Fund, the scheme for the purpose of the economic recovery of the Carnarvon Horticultural Precinct, I ask:

- (a) how much funding was allocated to the Carnarvon Growers Flood Recovery Fund;
- (b) how much of this funding was allocated specifically for the topsoil loss project;
- (c) what is the closing date of the soil pit;
- (d) how much to date has been spent on the top soil loss project;
- (e) what was the total count of plantations hit by the December floods that sustained damage to houses and sheds, equipment, crops and soil erosion;
- (f) of these damaged plantations, how many needed to access the soil pit to get suitable soils to put back into their farms in order to get their properties back into economic production;
- (g) how many growers have accessed the soil pit to get suitable soils to put back into their farms;
- (h) how many growers are there in Carnarvon that have not yet been able to access enough soil to get their property back into economic production;
- (i) are there any growers that after levelling the ground with the minimal amount of imported topsoil have not been able to get back into production; and
- (j) when the pit closes, if there are growers not able to get back into production, what assistance will be made available to ensure they have access to topsoil without being financially burdened?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) Up to \$3 million
- (b) Up to \$3 million
- (c) The soil pit was closed on 31 July 2011
- (d) Total cost of the Carnarvon Growers Flood Recovery Fund to date is \$2.19 million
- (e) 153 plantation businesses
- (f) 105 growers
- (g) More than 105
- (h) None
- (i) One
- (j) No additional assistance. All growers registered and assessed under the scheme have either completed their works or have stock piled soil for future spreading and levelling.