

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 220 of
Budget Paper 3**

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

1) *I refer to the 'Better Beginnings – Early Literacy' program on Page 220 of Budget Paper 3, and I ask:*

a) *I note the significant reduction in funding to the program and seek clarification on how the program change to meet the revised allocation?*

Answer: Under the previous government this program had no funding beyond 2017-18. Funding for the program has now been secured for three years.

The State Library of WA is working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to determine how the program will be delivered under the revised funding allocation.

b) *What services, locations and regions will be affected by the change?*

Answer: refer to (a)

Public / Internet
16/10/17

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Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

2) *I refer to the 'Entry Statement and Signage for Bunbury' on Page 222 of Budget Paper 3, and I ask:*

a) *Please provide business case for the project?*

Answer: The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will be working with the City of Bunbury to further develop and define the project.

b) *How was the project prioritised?*

Answer: This project is an election commitment.

c) *Who will be the recipient of the \$200,000?*

Answer: The City of Bunbury.

d) *At what locations will the project apply?*

Answer: The project will be based in the City of Bunbury.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 224 of
Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

3) *I refer to Budget Paper 3, Page 224 'Remote Swimming Pools' and I ask:*

a) *Which locations will be beneficiaries of the \$15.5 million Program?*

Answer: Balgo and Kalumburu

b) *What services o infrastructure will be allocated to each project?*

Answer: The new Balgo facility will be allocated access to a reliable and potable water supply, an electricity supply, telephone, and sewer.

Kalumburu requires site selection planning and a feasibility study before service requirements can be confirmed.

c) *What consultation occurred with the communities identified in (a) prior to the announcement?*

Answer: Balgo: In 2015, the former Housing Authority initiated planning of the Balgo Pool Project, which involved direct consultation with the Wurrimanu (Balgo) Aboriginal Corporation (WAC). Agreement was reached with WAC on site selections for the pool and the pool manager's house.

The Housing division of the Department of Communities (Housing) is planning to re-engage the community in October 2017 to finalise project parameters.

Kalumburu: The Member for Kimberley consulted with community elders prior to the announcement. Housing plan to engage with Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) in the coming weeks.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 218 of
Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

4) *I refer to Budget Paper 3, Page 218, the 'State Agriculture Telecommunication Infrastructure Improvement Fund' and I ask:*

a) *How was the \$2.7 million expended in 2016-17?*

Answer: The 2.7 million was not expended in 2016-17.

b) *Is this program the same as the "Agriculture Telecommunications Fund" re-announced by the Minister on 20 July 2017 by media statement?*

Answer: Yes.

c) *What will the \$22 million fund be allocated to and by what process?*

Answer: The \$22 million will be allocated to innovative connectivity solutions to advance telecommunications infrastructure and technology in agricultural and pastoral regions across Western Australia. The funding will leverage industry investment to support innovative agricultural practices and technologies. I held an industry forum to help chart the path forward as a result of this forum. The Government Chief Information Officer is leading an infrastructure audit. The result of the audit will inform the next step.

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Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

5) *I refer to Budget paper 3, Page 221 'TAFE Regional Subsidies' and I ask:*

a) *What will the funds be used for?*

Answer: The "TAFE Regional Subsidies" will be used to support cost premiums associated with providing vocational education and training in regional Western Australia.

b) *What is being subsidised?*

Answer: The cost premiums associated with the delivery of vocational education and training in regional Western Australia, include:

- Regional-specific salary award conditions;
- Maintaining training viability by supporting smaller class sizes in regional areas;
- Supporting proportionally higher base staffing costs noting lower economies of scale for regional centres;
- Contribution to housing costs for staff eligible under Government Regional Officer Housing policies; and
- Goods purchase loading to acknowledge the higher costs to purchase goods in regional areas.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 227 of
Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

6) *I refer to Budget Paper 3, Page 227 and I ask:*

For 2017-18 and each year of the forward estimates please detail the projects listed under 'Administered Items' which require further planning?

Answer: Items covered under the Administered Items relate to those projects where further planning and business case development is required to confirm the project cost, timing and/or responsible agency.

The breakdown of the projects under Administered Items are:

- Broome Senior High School
- Bunbury Hospital - Stage 1 of Upgrade
- Bunbury Port Planning
- Collie Crisis and Transitional Accommodation
- Collie Hospital Rebuild
- Community Chest Grants Scheme
- Coral Bay Key Worker Housing - provision for headworks
- Dardanup Catholic School – upgrade
- Develop Serviced Land at Lumsden Point
- Dialysis at Newman Hospital
- Enhanced and Mobile Bushfire Prediction Technology
- Establish two One Stop Hubs to simplify access to domestic violence services
- Geraldton Health Campus Redevelopment
- Goldfields Emergency Telehealth
- Infrastructure Audit and Investment Fund – Operational
- Josie Farrer - Juvenile Justice Report Implementation
- Kalgoorlie Motorsports Precinct
- Kimberley Mobile Dialysis Unit
- Major Upgrade to Collie TAFE
- Mental Health beds - Geraldton - 12 Acute and 8 sub-acute
- Meth Action Plan- Kimberley AOD Residential Rehabilitation & Treatment Service
- MRI Scanner Kalgoorlie
- Preston River to Ocean Regional Park
- Protect the Fitzroy River - Fitzroy River National Park
- Regional Grants Scheme
- Renewable energy commitments
- South West Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service
- TAFE colleges into Industry Skill centres

- Two-Year Electronic Monitoring Trial
- Valley View Aged Care Centre – upgrade
- VET regional Partnership program

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Chapter 7
Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

- 7) *I refer to Budget Paper 3, Chapter 7 and I ask:*
- a) *What funding has been allocated in 2017-18 and the forward estimates to support grain freight rail infrastructure or service investment?*
 - b) *Of those identified in (a) how many will be specifically relevant to the tier 3 grain freight rail networks?*

Answer:

No Royalties for Regions funding has ever been allocated to grain freight rail.

The Liberal National Government privatised the grain rail lines in 2000, promising that from that time private sector investment would maintain the lines.

Our Government is currently considering how this rail infrastructure can be made available to the industry at competitive prices.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 287 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

8. *I refer to Budget Paper 2, Page 287 and references to 'Machinery of Government changes' and '... rebuilding the state's agricultural science, research and development capabilities', and I ask:*

a) *Noting the merger of the former Department of Agriculture and Food into the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, what is the number of FTE within the new department dedicated to agriculture and food functions?*

Answer: In 2017-18 the FTE that relates to the Agriculture and Food functions are detailed in Services 4 to 9 and totals to a budget maximum of 1036.

b) *What was the FTE staffing level provided to the former Department of Agriculture and Food in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budget years?*

Answer: The 2015-16 and 2016-17 FTEs totals were 987 (actual) and 997 (estimated actuals) respectively.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 287 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

9. *I refer to Budget Paper 2, Page 287 and specifically the reference to "Machinery of Government changes", and I ask with respect to each Regional Development Commission:*

(a) *Has there been a staffing reduction as result of the reform process?*

Answer: No. There has been no reduction in the number of positions located with each Regional Development Commission as a result of the Machinery of Government process.

(b) *If yes to (a) at which location has staff increased or decreased and please provide the title of the position subject to the change.*

Answer: Not applicable.

(c) *Which offices have been closed and identify those that have been relocated into other departmental offices?*

Answer:

Six staff from the Pilbara Development Commission have relocated from West Perth to level 12, 140 William Street, Perth, Gordon Stephenson House.

(d) *Have any offices vacated that have ongoing lease arrangements?*

Answer: No

(e) *If yes to (d) what is the remaining term and expected cost of the lease?*

Answer: Not applicable.

(f) *What costs have been incurred to date and are expected in relation to office relocation?*

Answer: \$760.00 in removal costs.

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Budget Paper 3

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

10. I refer to Budget Paper 3, Page 218 'Regional Telecommunications Project' and Budget information Pack under Regional Investments '\$40m investment in regional telecommunications to improve access to services' and I ask:

a) What will the \$40 million be allocated to?

Answer: The funding has been allocated to Western Australia's contribution towards the partnership with the Commonwealth under the national Mobile Black Spot Program Round 1 and 2.

b) Does this project include the \$22 million 'Agricultural Telecommunications Fund' referenced in the Minister's media statement on 20 July 2017 and previously announced by the former Liberal-National government on 28 January 2017?

Answer: No

c) How much funding has been allocated to implement and install new mobile telecommunications towers across regional Western Australia in addition to those already announced by the former Liberal-National Government under the program?

Answer:

This was a combined Federal-State program. In the 2016 Federal election, the Liberal-National government made a unilateral decision about projects to be funded – only seven of the 125 projects identified nationally were in WA and our view is that as WA is being treated so poorly, we expect these to be fully funded by the Commonwealth.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 299 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

11. *I refer to Budget Paper No. 2, Volume 1, Pg. 299 and specifically a reference to a \$3.3 million once-off grant to the Surf Life Saving Association of Western Australia and I ask:*

(a) *What is the grant intended for?*

Answer: The grant is intended to provide for the following services conducted by Surf Lifesaving Western Australia (SLSWA) at metropolitan Perth beaches, and in the South West:

- Aerial patrols, including helicopter surveillance program and drone surveillance program
- Lifeguard services – rescue and surveillance services
- Jet ski patrol and response team

The grant is to offset salary and operational costs incurred by SLSWA in the delivery of these services.

(b) *When will the grant be made?*

Answer: The grant has been made.

(c) *How will the Department ensure that the grant is only expended on goods and services to benefit regional surf lifesaving clubs?*

Answer: The grant relates to services in the metropolitan area and the South West. The grant will be managed through reporting requirements by the grantor, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

(d) *Will you provide the business case for the expenditure of funds?*

Answer: No

(e) *If no to (d), why not?*

Answer: The considerations with respect to the provision of the grant were subject to Cabinet deliberations. In any event the funding is continuing a suite of services many of which have been operating for a number of years and were supported by the previous Government.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 287 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

1. *I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1 -:*

(a) *And the last bullet point on page 287:*

(i) *What will be the total funding in 2017-18 and over the forward estimates for the shark hazard mitigation measures listed here;*

Answer: The total funding for shark hazard mitigation within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in 2017-18 and over the period of the forward estimates is \$10.827 million.

In addition, another \$1.35 million has been allocated across the forward estimates to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for funding of the Beach Emergency Numbering system.

(ii) *Could the Government please provide details of the progress of the trial rebate for personal shark deterrents, including;*

(A) *How many applications for the rebate there have been;*

Answer: 650 as at 10am Thursday 28 September 2017

(B) *Is the rebate now available for the device for surfers as well as the device for divers;*

Answer: There is only one device that has been approved for the rebate, the Shark Shield Freedom 7. This device is best suited to activities such as diving, snorkelling or kayaking although nine rebate recipients have identified surfing as the primary activity for which the product has been purchased. The McGowan Government looks forward to scientifically tested products, designed for surfboards, being made eligible for the rebate program.

(C) *How many people have received rebates; and*

Answer: 647 as at 10am Thursday 28 September 2017.

(D) *If available, a breakdown of the applicants by gender; age; and geographic location; and*

Answer: The gender of rebate applicants was not recorded. The following two tables provide the age range and geographic location of applicants.

Age Range	Number of applicants
Under 18	4
18 to 24	39
25 to 34	129
35 to 44	186
45 to 54	164
55 to 65	98
Over 66	30

Postcode	Number of applicants
6000	2
6003	1
6004	1
6005	1
6006	2
6007	5
6009	3
6010	8
6011	12
6012	8
6014	7
6015	6
6016	2
6018	11
6019	5
6020	12
6021	5
6023	6
6025	16
6026	4
6027	19
6028	9
6029	1
6030	12
6031	1
6035	2
6036	4
6037	1
6038	2
6044	3
6050	4
6051	4

6052	1
6053	1
6055	1
6056	5
6057	1
6058	1
6059	2
6060	1
6061	5
6062	3
6064	3
6065	14
6066	1
6069	3
6070	2
6071	1
6076	6
6082	1
6083	1
6100	5
6101	2
6102	1
6103	3
6105	3
6107	6
6108	6
6110	9
6111	6
6112	13
6121	4
6122	3
6123	1
6135	1
6147	3
6148	8
6149	2
6150	2
6151	4
6152	3
6153	5
6154	6
6155	16
6156	10
6157	11
6158	6
6159	3
6160	4

6162	3
6163	25
6164	11
6166	3
6167	2
6168	13
6169	16
6170	2
6171	11
6172	7
6173	4
6174	3
6175	2
6180	3
6207	1
6208	2
6210	13
6211	2
6225	4
6230	19
6232	5
6233	7
6237	3
6239	2
6262	1
6271	1
6275	1
6280	7
6281	7
6282	2
6285	1
6290	3
6302	1
6306	1
6312	1
6328	1
6330	13
6333	1
6341	1
6342	1
6346	1
6428	2
6450	12
6511	1
6516	1
6525	1
6530	16

6531	1
6532	2
6536	1
6537	1
6701	3
6714	6
6721	1
6722	2
6725	7
6751	2
6753	1
6799	1
6909	3
6923	1

- (iii) *Does the Government consider the rebate scheme has been a success and does it plan to extend it? If no, why not; and*

Answer: As at 10am on 28 September 2017 almost 650 Western Australians had received a \$200 rebate for the purchase of the Shark Shield Freedom 7 device. The McGowan Government committed to providing 1,000 rebates to protect those most at risk of shark attack, surfers and divers and, with only 350 remaining since the rebate launch in May, the scheme has clearly been a success. A budget allocation of \$200,000 has been made in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to fund the rebate. This will allow for additional devices specifically designed to protect surfers to be included in the scheme, subject to such a device being scientifically tested, peer reviewed and approved by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

- (b) *With reference to the line item 'Shark Monitoring Network' on page 298, will the Government please outline how the existing detection devices and receivers in the ocean and associated equipment will be maintained and replaced when they wear out?*

Answer: The receivers which comprise the Shark Monitoring Network (27) have been replaced between 2013-14 and 2016-17. It is anticipated that the primary equipment has a life span of 7-10 years under normal operating parameters with annual maintenance. The capital budget of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development includes funding across the forward estimates (of \$75,000 per annum). Major capital replacement costs will be budgeted within the capital program for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development within the relevant budget cycle.

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Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

2. *With reference to page 293, Service 5, Note 1 the delay in externally funded projects as a result of the need to reprioritise work commitments to meet high priority emerging issues:*

a) *Which projects have been delayed?*

Answer: A number of the former Department of Agriculture and Food's (DAFWA) approximately 90 projects have suffered delays to varying extents over the last few years. This is an accepted and necessary part of DAFWA's (and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's) action plan, in which scheduled work is set aside for higher-priority emergency responses if and as required.

b) *What is the estimated time for completion?*

Answer: Recently affected projects have either been completed, returned or are now returning to schedule and most will be completed within the scheduled timeframes. The contracts are managed as a whole of life averaging from three to five years.

c) *Has the delay caused any reduction or withdrawal of external funding?*

Answer: No.

d) *What are the high priority emerging issues that resulted in the delays?*

Answer: Over the last two years the then DAFWA experienced a significant increase in the number of emergency situations that required direct management to protect the state's agriculture and food sector, and to ensure access to export markets. These have included the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus, Australian Plague Locusts, Green Snail, Russian Wheat Aphid and the Tomato Potato Psyllid. We have also provided responses to fires at Myalup, Waroona and Esperance; and flooding at Carnarvon and Esperance. These incidents have consumed large numbers of staff hours throughout the 2016/17 financial year resulting in delays to some externally funded projects. Other impacts to projects include delays in having contracts negotiated and signed; sub agreements with third parties not finalised; delays in engaging staff; and some seasonal setbacks to weather-dependent trials.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 293 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

3. *With reference to page 293, Service 6, Note 1 and the 'delay in RfR funded projects as a result of the need to reprioritise work commitments to meet high priority emerging issues':*

e) Which projects have been delayed?

Answer: A large number of the then Department of Agriculture and Food's projects were delayed to varying extents. These include:

- i. Boosting Biosecurity Defence subproject piloting new techniques to control and eradicate fruit fly (medfly) in Carnarvon.
- ii. Three technology-enabled surveillance subprojects of the Biosecurity Research and Development Fund (BRDF) project, which provides funding for developing management solutions for significant pests and diseases.
- iii. Two grant-awarding programs (Grower Group Research and Development Grants – Round 2; Industry Grants for International Competitiveness) delivered by the Agricultural Sciences Research and Development Fund Project.
- iv. A component of the Potato Industry Adjustment Project administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) – being a Cabinet-approved grant of \$2 million to the Potato Growers' Association of W.A. (Inc.) to undertake industry-related activities developed by the Potato Industry Adjustment Working Group.

f) What is the estimated time for completion?

Answer: The impact of delays on completing times is outlined below for the four examples set out above.

- i. The Carnarvon medfly sub-project was originally expected to be completed by December 2017 and is now estimated to be completed in December 2018.
- ii. The BRDF funded subprojects were all due to end in March 2017 and will now all end in December 2017.
- iii. Delays to the grants programs have not materially affected their overall timelines, with all funded projects expected to be completed by the original deadline of 31 March 2019.
- iv. The Potato Industry Adjustment Project, work scheduled to June 2017 has not been completed; and DPRID is working with the Potato Growers' Association to find a remedy. This is expected to result in a six month delay in the timing of the overall project.

g) What are the high priority emerging issues that resulted in the delays?

Answer: As above, the major emerging issues related to incursions of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus, Australian Plague Locusts, Green Snail, Russian Wheat Aphid and the Tomato Potato Psyllid; and responses to fires at Myalup, Waroona and Esperance and flooding at Carnarvon and Esperance. For example:

- i. The eradication of medfly from Carnarvon subproject was delayed in early 2015 when rains from Cyclone Olwyn flooded Carnarvon town site and the surrounding horticultural area. This delayed the start of the project by six months.
- ii. The BRDF funded subprojects were delayed by the Tomato Potato Psyllid incident response, with key staff being required to work on the response.

Other impacts to projects include delays in having contracts negotiated and signed; sub-agreements with third parties not being finalised; delays in engaging staff; seasonal setbacks to weather-dependent projects; and the in-coming government's review of existing Royalties for Regions projects.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 295 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

4. *With reference to page 295, Service 8:*

a) *Note 1 refers to the 'reallocation of internal resources towards biosecurity incidents':*

i) *what biosecurity incidents (including risks or breaches) were identified in WA in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17;*

Answer: DPIRD's Agriculture and Food division responds to biosecurity risks and breaches on a daily basis and as part of its core business; the majority of risks or breaches are not treated as an incident.

An incident may occur at an isolated, regional, state or national level; and the size and complexity of each incident can vary significantly.

The table below summarises a number of the former DAFWA led biosecurity incidents between 2014-15 and 2016-17.

Fin year	Incident title	Regions infected/ impacted	Threat type	Action taken
2016	Incursion of Johnes disease (JD) in cattle (WA and other states)	WA and other states/ Kimberley	Disease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cattle from infected Queensland properties traced and tested. 2. Implemented and administered property quarantine and management plans to maintain negligible prevalence in WA. 3. Managed eradication program of high risk livestock and compensation payment to owners. 4. Maintained surveillance.
2015 & 2016	Mediterranean fruit fly	WA and other states/Ord River Irrigation Area	Insect pest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delimit infestation in Kununurra. 2. Developed control / eradication options. 3. Carried out eradication program.
2016 & 2017	Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly)	WA and other states/ metro & Swan	Insect pest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delimit infestation in metro area. 2. Developed control/eradication options. 3. Implemented quarantine, inspection, treatment and eradication measures 4. Stakeholders/community communications for engagement.

				5. Eradication of Qfly in area. 6. Implemented surveillance plan.
2016 & 2017	Russian wheat aphid (RWA)	Eastern states, with national implication/national incident	Insect pest	1. Developed a pre-emptive response plan if RWA detected in WA (including response triggers) 2. Developed and implemented a surveillance strategy 3. Maintained effective communication with stakeholders as situation developed to ensure goof engagement to maximise likelihood of early detection
2016 & 2017	Novel rotavirus in pigeons	WA and other states/state	Disease	1. Worked closely with pigeon industry to respond to detection of novel rotavirus 2. Comprehensive diagnostic study with significant surveillance / sampling 3. Biosecurity advice to minimise impact of the virus on WA pigeon industry
2017	Green snail in strawberries	WA, with national/state implications	Declared pest	1. Engaged industry, community and government to support response efforts. 2. Negotiated entry conditions for WA strawberries to re-open interstate markets. 3. Inspection and advisory services to WA strawberry growers re new interstate movement requirements. 4. Developed/implemented online training for accreditation of inspectors.
2017	Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus	WA and other states, with national/state implications	Plant disease	1. Surveyed >30% of cucurbit growers and host species to delimit the extent of infestation. 2. Worked industry to implement on-farm biosecurity measures. 3. Facilitated development of WA management plan with industry.
2017	Australian Plague Locust (APL) – 2016 Spring Response	State WA and other states APL is an 'irruptive native species' rather than exotic	Declared pest	1. Conducted targeted surveillance of APL hatchings to verify density. 2. Developed control thresholds. 3. Informed industry, community and government on effective management. 4. Provided assistance scheme to support landholders to treat APL.
2017	Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP)	WA, with national implications/multi-regional	Insect pest	1. Delimit TPP infestation in the metro and regional areas. 2. Develop control/eradication options 3. Assess options/criteria for pest free places or areas. 4. Developed feasible BCA. 5. Interstate movement controls. 6. Developed legislative framework.

				7. Led national development of transition to management plan.
2017 & 2018	Influenza A in pigs	WA and other states / State	Virus	1. Confirmed virus infection. 2. Implemented nationally agreed response strategy. 3. Intensive surveillance and movement controls. 4. Worked to minimise animal risks with minimal industry impact.
2017 & 2018	Potato <i>Dickeya dianthicola</i> (PDD)	WA, with national implications/state	Plant disease	1. Determine species diagnosis. 2. Delimit the PDD infestation. 3. Developed containment/control options while minimising economic impacts. 4. Collaborated with WA and national industry and government. 5. Developed rapid diagnostic capacity. 6. Determined if eradication was economically feasible. 7. Developed legislative framework. 8. Led development of transition to management plan.

ii) *what action was taken for each incident (including risks or breaches) in (i);*

Answer: Refer to the table above.

iii) *what was the cost of action in (ii):*

Answer: The cost for each incident varied considerably depending on the period, type and number of resources involved. Accurate costings are not available for each incident. However, by way of example, the estimated cost for the Russian wheat aphid response was around \$35 000, whereas the operating costs for the Tomato Potato Psyllid incident was \$2.3 million. These costs do not include a staff in-kind contribution.

The most recent major response, for the Potato *Dickeya dianthicola* plant disease, cost \$1.037 million in total of which nearly \$735 000 was attributable to in-kind salary and overtime costs.

iv) *for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, what percentage of the former Department of Agriculture and Food WA's total expenditure was for biosecurity incidents (including risks or breaches):*

Answer: Resources are allocated to scheduled activities with the understanding that, if a significant situation does arise, then resources will be reassigned and the delivery of lower-priority services may be postponed or abandoned.

b) *Note 2 refers to an increase in expenditure related to the management of a number of unbudgeted biosecurity incidents in 2016-17.*

(i) *How much expenditure is budgeted for in relation to biosecurity incidents in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20?*

Answer: As outlined in (iv) above, no funding is set aside specifically for biosecurity or other incidents other than an annual contribution to national response agreements, as below.

WA contributes to national incidents approved under the Emergency Animal Disease Response (EADRA), Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) and National Environmental Biosecurity Response (NEBRA) Agreements. These contractual arrangements bring together the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and livestock and plant industry groups to collectively and significantly increase Australia's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergency animal and plant diseases and pests.

The contribution for 2017-18 is budgeted at \$1 million, which is the nominal annual starting point, with the figure being adjusted according to need. Contributions in 2015-16 and 2016-17 were \$1.019 million and \$1.014 million respectively

- c) *Given the delays in projects under services 5 and 6 are due to the need to redirect expenditure to biosecurity incidents, will the department's current and forecast budget allocations enable it to continue to deliver core services in the future whilst also responding to biosecurity?*

Answer: The capability to detect an emergency biosecurity pest or disease early and respond effectively and efficaciously is a fundamental biosecurity deliverable.

It is acknowledged that in the event of an incident, resources will need to be reallocated. This inevitably means that other core activities must be prioritised, with the potential for some lower priority activities either not being delivered or being delayed during the incident response.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 295 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

5. *With reference to the delivery of 19 recommendations as detailed in the Animal Welfare Review report on page 295, Service 8, Note 1:*

a) *How many recommendations are still outstanding and what are they?*

Answer: Work is continuing on all recommendations.

b) *What timeframe is expected for the implementation of outstanding recommendations?*

Answer: There is a variable timeframe for implementation depending on the complexity of each recommendation. All are expected to be implemented within the span of funding approved by the previous government (i.e. four years beginning in 2016-17).

c) *Are there any recommendations the government will not be implementing and if so what is the reason for this decision?*

Answer: All recommendations are being progressed.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 10 of
Budget Paper 1

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

6. *With reference to page 10 of Budget paper 1 the Treasurer's speech and the transfer of \$861 million of regional programs that were centrally funded to the Royalties for regions:*

a) *Will agencies that receive funding for these programs now be required to submit a business case to Cabinet to access funds, similar to the previous requirements of the Royalties for Regions program?*

Answer: A new process will be applied for state agencies consistent with the treatment of all new State Government funded projects approved for Royalties for Regions funding through the 2017-18 budget.

This process has been designed, recognising that funding for these projects has already been approved by Government whilst ensuring appropriate governance and the principles of the *Royalties for Regions Act 2009* are upheld.

b) *What reporting is required by agencies now receiving these funds through Royalties for Regions (ie milestones, acquittal process);*

Answer: Agencies will be required to provide:

- An annual audited financial report (including a non-financial report on progress of the project against established progress milestones and outcomes).
- A cumulative financial expenditure report in March each year to track expenditure of the Royalties for Regions Fund.
- A final project report on completion of the project to acquit funding and outline the achievement of intended milestones and outcomes.

c) *Will this impact an agency's ability to provide long term (permanent) employment and require fixed term contracts only; and*

Answer: There will be no impact on existing contractual arrangements for these projects.

- d) *How will funding beyond the forward estimates be considered? Will agencies be required to submit a business case for the continuation of the funds in the out year every budget or will program funding automatically roll over?*

Answer: Funding beyond the forward estimates will be considered by the Expenditure Review Committee through future budget processes with advice from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Treasury.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Page Number 286 of
Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

7. *With reference to Budget paper 2, page 286, the spending changes table details payments of \$3.3 million in 2017-18 and \$3.4 million in 2018-19 for Surf Life Saving Western Australia patrols and savings from a reduction of \$250,000 per year from Shark Hazard Mitigation:*

(a) *why does funding for the Surf Life Saving cease in 2018-19;*

Answer: The funding for Surf Life Saving WA aerial patrols was not budgeted beyond 30 June 2017. The Government considered an urgent request for continued funding and two years was considered an appropriate commitment.

(b) *given that \$1,050,000 was shown for Shark Hazard Mitigation in the 16/17 budget for the three years, 16/17, 17/18 and 18/19, where is the remaining \$800,000 (after the \$250,000 budget savings) for each year in the current budget; and*

Answer: The remaining budget continues to fund the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's recurrent expenditure in delivering shark mitigation services including the Shark Response Unit, shark notification systems and the maintenance of the Shark Monitoring Network and its associated services.

(c) *What are the government's plans for shark mitigation and beach safety beyond 2018-19 when funding for aerial patrols and surveillance ceases?*

Answer: This Government is committed to public safety with a suite of shark hazard mitigation initiatives based on science and with a focus on those most at risk – divers and surfers.

The approach taken by the Government is to work with stakeholders to ensure that the strategies in place are making a difference and making use of the best available scientific information and technology. The Government will work closely with SLSWA and other stakeholders in developing strategies for 2019-20 and out years.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 222 of
Budget Paper 3

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

8. *With reference to the Royalties for Regions Expenditure table on page 222 of Budget paper 3:*

a) *Why has funding for the Community Resources Centre reduced from \$13 million in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to \$8 million per annum in 2019-20 and 20120-21;*

Answer: The reduction in funding for the Community Resource Centre (CRC) program is a result of the significant budgetary pressure the Government faces.

b) *Will other resources be put in place to maintain the services provided by the Community Resources Centres; and*

Answer: All CRCs have service deliver contracts in place for the next 18 months.

c) *Has a study been undertaken to determine the value to the communities and to Government in having services delivered to, and provided for, communities by the Community Resource Centres?*

Answer: A review of the CRC program will be undertaken in 2018 focusing on CRC function, location and value for money.

Technology and connectivity have changed enormously since these centers were first created as telecentres and it's time we took the opportunity to review the program to ensure the best outcomes for regional Western Australians.

It is acknowledged that CRCs provide valuable services, but there is huge variability between individual CRCs in terms of usage and the level of service offered. We also need to take a real look at the locations of our CRCs: there is a disparity in how resources are allocated between the regions.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 286-287
of Budget Paper 2

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

9. *With reference to the Significant Issues in Budget Paper 2, page 286-287:*

a) *Point 4 refers to opportunities for growth as highlighted in a 2017 survey of agriculture and food businesses:*

i) *Will the government please table the survey or advise if it's available online?*

Answer: The survey referred to in Point 4 is long-running and forms part of the department's formal performance assessment process. The survey has not been made available over that period because its ongoing success depends on industry's ongoing confidence in its complete confidentiality.

ii) *If not, will the government please advise what new business opportunities in global markets were identified by survey respondents?*

Answer: The survey question referred to in Point 4 asked respondents whether they were more or less confident about the future of their business than they were five years. Three out of four respondents answered that they were more confident. The questions reflect respondents' overall views on their prospects rather than specific opportunities.

iii) *Did survey respondents or the state government identify actions that the government should undertake to enable business to access these opportunities?*

Answer: See (ii) above.

iv) *If yes, what actions did survey respondents or the state government suggest?*

Answer: Not applicable.

v) *What action does the government intend to take to support agriculture and food businesses wishing to access new opportunities in global markets?*

Answer: Helping agrifood businesses access new and more profitable markets is central to the government's economic diversification agenda and DPIRD's growth pillar. DPIRD's services 4, 6 and 9 are geared towards helping the industry change from a commodity to differentiated products; providing market intelligence aligned with industry capability and competitive advantage; aligning those products with the needs of premium markets; establishing the business models needed to attract investment; and building business export capability and capacity in global market opportunities.

vi) *What funding will the government provide to undertake these actions?*

Answer: As above, these actions form a major component of services 4, 6 and 9, which are collectively budgeted at \$100.7 million in 2017-18.

vii) *If none to (vi), why not?*

Answer: Not applicable.

b) *Point 7 refers to the government's plan to double the value of the state's agricultural sector by 2025:*

i) *Will the government please provide details of the plan?*

Answer: The specific goal of doubling the sector's value by 2025 was devised by a meeting of industry leaders in 2013. Steps towards achieving this were set out in the former DAFWA's 2013–17 Strategic Plan. DPIRD's approach towards helping grow the sector will similarly be set out in its inaugural strategic plan.

ii) *How much funding will the government provide over the next three years for research to support doubling the value of the state agriculture sector?*

Answer: DPIRD's research activities span its three pillars: growth, protection and innovation; and there is no clear boundary between what is and is not 'research'.

The extent and direction of DPIRD's research agenda will be determined on the basis of its forthcoming strategic plan. As a general indication, the overall 2016-17 research budget of the former DAFWA was \$22.9 million.

iii) *Please name the research projects relating to doubling the value of the agricultural sector that the government will provide funds for.*

Answer: As above, a number of DPIRD's current suite of 86 agrifood projects contribute to this goal, including: projects addressing land and water assessment; digital connectivity; funding of industry-led agricultural sciences research and development projects; identifying and gaining access to key Asian markets; establishing horticulture growth partnerships; developing new biosecurity diagnostics for market access; developing and diversifying the northern beef industry; and supporting innovation in the WA food industry

c) *Point eight refers to the impact on the growing season resulting from low rainfall, and the provision of planning information and decision-making tools to growers to manage livestock and cropping programs, as well as gearing up to adjust the level and types of support offered.*

i) *What planning information and decision tools is the government currently providing to farmers?*

Answer: The government has established a network of automated weather stations to monitor seasonal conditions and provide real time and historical data for farm managers. Doppler Radars have also been established and upgraded to provide access to decision making data during weather events. Development of the eConnected information platform will provide open access to weather data. The government continues to provide seminars and information via the DPIRD website and media regarding the seasonal outlook; and the Growing Season Resources page of the DPIRD website harnesses a range of technical information and tools to navigate the season. DPIRD officers are also attending spring field days and events, providing information and advice.

- ii) *What is the cost of the planning information and decision tools that the government currently provides and what is their estimated benefit to the Western Australian economy, in dollar terms?*

Answer: Economic analysis conducted as part of the Doppler Radar business case indicates a return of at least \$6 for every dollar invested from improved chemical and fertilizer management decisions alone. Benefits also accrue to the broader community from improved weather monitoring for emergency services and transport operations. The projects support the agrifood sector as a whole; therefore it is not possible to quantify expenditure specifically in respect of weather events.

- iii) *What improvements to the level and types of support offered to growers to manage livestock and cropping programs is the government intending to develop and implement?*

Answer: Establishment of three new Doppler radars (Newdegate, North Doodlakine and Watheroo), the upgrade of three existing coastal radars (Esperance, Geraldton and Albany) and increased service provided from Serpentine will offer complete Doppler radar coverage across the South-West Land Division for the first time.

- iv) *How much funding will the government provide to develop and implement these improvements, and what are the estimated benefits to the Western Australian economy, in dollar terms?*

Answer: This government will spend \$5.2 million upgrading the existing coastal Doppler radars over the next few years to complement the establishment of the three new Doppler radars in Newdegate, North Doodlakine and Watheroo. The investment in automated weather stations and Doppler radars is projected to result in productivity improvements in excess of \$130 million and improve the international competitiveness of Western Australia's agrifood sector.

- v) *Please name the research projects the government intends to fund to improve growers' ability to adapt to climate change impacts, including decreasing rainfall?*

Answer: DPIRD's research activities span its three pillars: growth, protection and innovation; and there is no clear boundary between what is and is not 'research'. It is not possible to quantify research expenditure specifically directed at adaptation to climate change impacts. Both the Doppler project and eConnected project incorporate weather data and analytics to support decision making in agrifood businesses.

The grains research and innovation program develops essential knowledge and decision support tools for agribusiness and growers to address seasonal conditions and weather variability from across its suite of projects. The range of online tools to support crop management decisions include statistical seasonal forecasting, sowing and flowering times, fertiliser requirements, soil water use, yield predictions and extreme weather events.

vi) *How much funding will the government provide for each of these climate change adaptation research projects?*

Answer: It is not possible to quantify research expenditure specifically directed at climate change adaptation research. The majority of research projects either have a climate change adaptation component or consider climate change implications in their design and objectives. Many projects are supported by external partners, including considerable co-investment by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, which makes possible the many decision support tools and services provided to farm and agribusiness.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 224 of
Budget Paper 3

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

10. *I refer to Royalties for Regions Expenditure Table on page 224 of Budget paper 3:*

a) *Why has funding ceased for Regional Centres Development Plans from 2018-19 onwards?*

Answer: Funding has been directed towards other priorities.

b) *With reference to the \$4 million dollars budgeted for Regional Centres Development Plans 2017-18:*

i) *How will this be spent; and*

Answer: The funding will support key regional centres to drive innovation, economic growth and job creation.

ii) *In which regional centres, Pilbara Cities and Super Towns will these funds be spent?*

Answer: This is yet to be determined.

c) *Will all regional centres, Pilbara Cities, and Super Towns identified in the Regional Centres Development Plan receive funding to complete and assist with the implementation of their Growth Plans?*

Answer: The 2017-18 Royalties for Regions budget provides over \$4 billion of funding in the regions, much of this is directed towards key regional centres.

i) *If not, why not;*

Answer: Not applicable.

d) *Will Regional Investment Blueprints that have been developed receive any additional State Government funding to support their implementation; and*

Answer: Many of the new investments announced in the 2017-18 Royalties for Regions budget align with priorities outlined in the Regional Investment Blueprints.

e) *Will the State Government provide resources or funding to enable regions to implement their Blueprints and Growth Plans in an integrated way, to optimise their efficacy?*

Answer: The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the nine Regional Development Commissions will continue to promote and support an integrated and coordinated approach to regional development in conjunction with other stakeholders.

