

SOUTHERN FORESTS IRRIGATION SCHEME — BUSINESS CASE

934. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the federal funding required for the southern forests irrigation scheme.

- (1) Has the state government sent a business case to the federal government for funding of the southern forests irrigation scheme?
- (2) If yes, can the minister please provide the date it was sent and when we can expect the business case to be published; and, if not, why not?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) The initial business case was lodged with the commonwealth National Water Infrastructure Development Fund on 14 January 2017, before we were in government. A revised business case was developed and lodged with the commonwealth government on 1 April 2019. As I have advised previously to questions by Hon Diane Evers, there is some commercially sensitive material, obviously, in this business case, but I want maximum disclosure, so we are working with the commonwealth government and the Southern Forest Irrigation Co-Operative to facilitate the release of as much of this document as we can. On balance, I think this is a very good scheme. I understand that it has very much divided the Manjimup community. I have gone over it and over it again and I still think that it stacks up. I think it is important that we get as much information out as we can, so I am hoping that over the next couple of weeks, we are able to land on how much of the latest business case we can disclose.