

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT —
VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE

1174. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to question without notice 1158 that I asked yesterday, noting that of the 38 redundancies made in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in the last 12 months, almost 90 per cent of those redundancies were made following a media statement that claimed the minister would be rebuilding capacity.

- (1) Will the minister detail the position title, level and full-time equivalent hours of each of the 38 voluntary severances accepted?
- (2) How many of these positions have been replaced?
- (3) How many more redundancies are planned in the next 12 months?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

I think it is worth reminding members that under the previous government, jobs in the then Department of Agriculture and Food were cut by almost 40 per cent and a further 37 per cent cut had been factored into the department's budget over the forward estimates. As we have said, we have managed to stop the rot. The budget we inherited would have taken the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development from around 1 640 FTEs to 1 300 FTEs. We have provided an additional \$131.5 million of expenditure to provide a stable base for around 1 580 FTEs.

- (1) I table the attached document.

[See paper 3284.]

- (2) None of these positions have been replaced. Voluntary severances can be offered only to registrable employees; that is, employees who are surplus to the requirements in their agency or whose job has been abolished and therefore no longer exists. However, as the member would be aware, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has undergone a comprehensive re-organisation to integrate the functions and services of the three former agencies and to ensure it is fit for purpose. A range of new positions have been created in this process.
- (3) The department does not have any plan for further voluntary redundancies at this time. For those employees who become registrable, the department's primary focus remains on finding meaningful work and, ultimately, a new suitable placement for them, either within the department or the broader WA public sector.