

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — STAFFING

1142. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

In regard to changes within the Department of Agriculture and Food, can the minister please advise —

- (1) Are DAFWA staff being asked to re-apply for their contracted positions when due for renewal; and, if yes —
 - (a) is the requirement to do so an established practice or one that is newly implemented; and
 - (b) does the requirement apply to all employees, including senior management?
- (2) Is DAFWA being restructured; and, if yes —
 - (a) are there any plans to shed positions or FTEs;
 - (b) how many positions and/or FTEs are affected;
 - (c) which specific areas will be affected;
 - (d) have redundancies been offered to affected staff; and
 - (e) if no to (d), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No; however, the requirements of the “Public Sector Commissioner’s Instruction: Filling a Public Sector Vacancy” must be met and this may mean that some positions will be advertised if a new contract is required. This applies to all public service officers appointed under part 3 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994.
- (2) Yes. The new DAFWA structure was implemented from 1 October 2014.
 - (a) A small number of management positions are being shed.
 - (b) There are seven full-time equivalents.
 - (c) There are five senior leadership team positions and two positions directly supporting these positions.
 - (d) No.
 - (e) Either impacted staff have been placed or internal placements are currently being sought.