

FARM FINANCE CONCESSIONAL LOANS SCHEME

480. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 455, asked on Tuesday, 6 May, about the farm finance concessional loans scheme.

- (1) As at 6 May —
 - (a) how many of the 43 applications received in the first tranche have been assessed;
 - (b) how many of those assessed were successful; and
 - (c) were any of those successful applications for more than \$200 000; and, if so, how much were the applications for?
- (2) Will the minister review the rigid eligibility criteria set in round 1, to bring round 2 into line with what was available in other states?
- (3) Will the minister confirm that round 2 of the scheme will enable WA farmers to apply for amounts greater than \$200 000; and, if so, what will be the maximum available per application?
- (4) From what date in July will round 2 of the scheme be available?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1)
 - (a) As at 6 May 2014, 15 applications have been assessed.
 - (b) Nine were successful.
 - (c) No.
- (2) I have reviewed the eligibility criteria and continue to negotiate with the commonwealth on how to make its scheme more effective in Western Australia.
- (3) Yes. I can confirm that negotiations I have had with the federal Minister for Agriculture have now been finalised. An increase in the loan amount has been approved by the commonwealth Ministers for Agriculture and Finance so that Western Australian farmers will be able to access up to \$400 000 in the farm finance concessional loans scheme.
- (4) Round 2 will be open for applications from 1 July 2014.