

AGRICULTURE — DOPPLER RADAR

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

I refer to the minister's statement to the house yesterday on the use of technology in agriculture and to information provided by the Department of Regional Development during a hearing of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations on 8 December 2014 that a business case had been approved for a \$10 million allocation to the Department for Agriculture and Food from the Seizing the Opportunity initiative for helping grain growers manage risk.

- (1) Will any of this \$10 million be used for the adoption of the Doppler radar program?
- (2) If yes to (1), how much of the \$10 million will be used?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) When does the minister expect the business case for royalties for regions funding to be completed?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The \$10 million funding for the eConnected Grainbelt program provides for a separate set of initiatives, including an open data exchange system to harness and combine a range of information such as paddock records, weather observations and forecasts, financial updates and research outcomes. This program will be assisted by establishing a Doppler radar network in the Agricultural Region.
- (4) A draft business case for royalties for regions funding for the Doppler radar project is under consideration by the Department for Regional Development for progression to its minister and cabinet.