

DROUGHT CONCESSIONAL LOANS SCHEME

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

I refer to the drought concessional loans scheme and the minister's comments in the *Farm Weekly* newspaper dated 14 August 2014 in which he said —

We expect to be in a position to receive applications for the drought loans scheme by the end of August.

- (1) Have the rules and eligibility criteria been finalised?
- (2) If not, when will the rules and eligibility criteria be finalised?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1)–(2) Yes, I would have said that. I was informed today that that letter is sitting on the Prime Minister's desk. It is out of the hands of the Minister for Agriculture. I signed another letter today, which is what I would call a bit of a hurry up letter. We have agreed with everything and it is sitting with the feds.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think there was any notice of that question. It was a question without notice.