

AUROX RESOURCES — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDS RECOVERY

129. Hon DARREN WEST to the minister representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to answers given to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations that reveal the Department of Regional Development has been pursuing nearly half a million dollars in royalties for regions money it gave to Aurox Resources for a pilot water program that has not yet commenced.

- (1) Has the money been paid yet?
- (2) If no, what is the government doing to recover the funds?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Aurox Resources—Atlas Iron—has advised that funds have been spent on the pilot water program in accordance with the financial assistance agreement. It will be acquitting the project in accordance with royalties for regions requirements. The Department of Regional Development has an independent auditor on standby to make investigations of the acquittal report if required.