SOUTH REGIONAL TAFE — 2019–20 STATE BUDGET

5237.   Ms L. Mettam to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to 2019–20 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Division 24, page 344 – South Regional TAFE Asset Replacement Program, and I ask:

(a)   Why has the budget for the South Regional TAFE asset replacement program decreased from $984000 in the 2019–20 Budget Estimate to $961000 across the forward estimates;

(b)   Given ABS figures show the South West Region is the fastest growing region outside of Greater Perth, why has the asset investment program decreased from $984000 in the 2019–20 Budget Estimate to $961000 across the forward estimates;

(c)   How will the South Regional TAFE meet the demands of an increasing population in the forward years;

(d)   Is there any plan to investigate the feasibility of a second TAFE facility in the South West Region, particularly in and around Vasse; and

(e)   Is there any plan to seek funding for a second TAFE facility in the South West Region, particularly in and around Vasse?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

(a)–(b) The 2019–20 Budget figure represents the anticipated actual cost for this year of the planned asset replacement program. The forward estimate figures are an estimate and are subject to change once the asset replacement program is finalised for the actual year they occur.

(c)   The Department of Training and Workforce Development continues to monitor population growth and training demands in the south-west. The Department and South Regional TAFE will continue to work with local industry to ensure training needs for the region are addressed.

(d)   The Department of Training and Workforce Development undertook a site feasibility study in 2013 to determine the best location for a future replacement TAFE facility for the Busselton/Vasse area and continues to consult with South Regional TAFE on the need for increased capacity in this location.

(e)   Options for new facilities are considered as part of the State's budget process.