

GASCOYNE-MURCHISON STRATEGY

1191. Hon Helen Bullock to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food
- (1) What period did the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy cover?
 - (2) Who in the Department of Agriculture was responsible for the strategy, the allocation of funds and the verification of acquittal of those funds?
 - (3) Which stations received funds and what was the purpose for which the funds were provided?
 - (4) Given that the strategy was intended to make pastoral stations in the area more viable, has any follow up been done to assess the effectiveness of the strategy?
 - (5) Were funds provided to a station in the Eastern Gascoyne to purchase an adjoining station in order to make both stations more viable?
 - (6) Was the purchased station subsequently resold by the recipient of the fund?
 - (7) Was the money received for the sale of that station ever refunded to the Department of Agriculture?
 - (8) If no to (7), why not?
 - (9) Were any of the funds provided to pastoralists ever refunded when equipment or businesses purchased with those funds, were subsequently resold?
 - (10) If no to (9), why not?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

- (1) April 1998 — August 2004.
- (2) The Gascoyne Murchison Strategy 'board' (and its sub-committees) were responsible for the strategy and the allocation of funds as per the State and Federal Intergovernmental Agreement, while funds were acquitted by and through the Rural Business Development Corporation.
- (3) Some 180 grants were funded, the majority going to pastoral stations in the Gascoyne Murchison for productivity and sustainability works.
- (4) The strategy had an extensive evaluation and monitoring program built into it to specifically evaluate its outcomes as required by the Intergovernmental Agreement.
- (5) Yes — a number were assisted.
- (6) Without detail of the specific station being referred to it is not possible to answer this question.
- (7) Please refer to part (6), however as a general rule if a property were to be sold prior to two years following a grant then this was to be refunded.
- (8) Please refer to part (6) and (7).
- (9) Not to the knowledge or recollection of the department. As a general rule "portable" assets were not eligible.
- (10) Please refer to part (7) and (9).