

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — RESTRUCTURE

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

- (1) Has the minister held any meetings or discussions, or is the minister aware of any discussions pertaining to a possible restructure of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia?
- (2) If yes to (1), who were these meetings or discussions held with?
- (3) Has the minister agreed to a restructure of DAFWA?
- (4) If yes to (3) —
 - (a) when is the restructure likely to take place; and
 - (b) what are the main features of the proposed new structure?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Meetings were held between me as minister, my chief of staff and the director general of the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)
 - (a) The restructure will take place on 1 July 2014.
 - (b) The main features are an industry approach focusing on grains, livestock and irrigated agriculture which incorporates my priorities around markets, productivity and profits. The restructure will ensure that the department can strengthen its links with farmers, continue to have an effective regional presence and consolidate and strengthen our biosecurity and regulatory functions.