

NATIONALS (WA) — ELECTION COMMITMENTS

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

I refer to the *Farm Weekly* article of 23 May 2013 entitled “Nats keen to deliver \$300m”.

- (1) Has the minister discussed the “non-negotiable” nature of the Nationals’ agriculture election promise; and, if so, what were the results of these discussions?
- (2) Has this government made a decision to implement —
 - (a) all;
 - (b) part; or
 - (c) noneof the Nationals’ agriculture election promise?
- (3) If yes to (2)(b), which parts of the promise will be incorporated into the government’s agriculture policy and what funding will be allocated to these parts?
- (4) If yes to (2)(c), why will none of the promise be adopted?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. I will take these questions as a package as they really revolve around the upcoming budget.

- (1)–(4) I am pleased to see the new member take an interest in agriculture and I am sure he is looking forward to the state budget on 8 August, when the government will announce its funding program for the Department of Agriculture and Food. No doubt the opposition was impressed by the comprehensive policies put forward by both the Liberal and National Parties during the election campaign and has noted that the Liberal policy is funded from consolidated revenue and the Nationals’ from royalties for regions. As members would expect at this stage in the budget preparation, I am working with the Treasurer and the Minister for Regional Development; Lands to finalise the Department of Agriculture and Food’s budget. The honourable member can look forward to a very comprehensive set of policies that are fully funded and will underpin this state’s agricultural sector for the next four years. In other words, all will be revealed on budget day.