

PROPOSED RANGELANDS COUNCIL

785. Hon KEN BASTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I refer to a government media statement dated 11 December 2004, which announced the government's intention to establish a rangelands council to oversee the sustainable use and management of the Western Australian rangelands, which occupy 87 per cent of the state.

- (1) At what stage is the proposal and when will it be introduced?
- (2) Who has been appointed to the council?
- (3) To whom will the council be responsible?
- (4) What is the envisaged operating budget?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Amendments to the Land Administration Act 1997 are required to establish a rangelands council. Drafting instructions for necessary amendments to the Land Administration Act are being developed and, subject to cabinet approval, it is expected that a bill to amend the Land Administration Act will be finalised and introduced to Parliament during the 2006 autumn session.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is proposed that a council be responsible to the Ministers for Planning and Infrastructure, Agriculture and the Environment.
- (4) The operating budget will be finalised once the legislation has been approved.