

SCITECH — LEASE

639. Hon KATE DOUST to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Science and Innovation:

I assume Hon Simon O'Brien will answer that question.

Hon Simon O'Brien: There is nothing I cannot turn my hand to!

Hon KATE DOUST: I know; the minister is very flexible!

- (1) Given the minister recently informed the house that Scitech's lease at City West ceases in mid-2013, will he commit to ensure adequate capital funding is included in the forward estimates to give Scitech certainty it will have a home; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Has the minister taken any action to ensure Scitech has a home and a future beyond 2013, or will this be another case of neglect of science and innovation by this government?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The government's existing funding agreement with Scitech, for a total of \$41.57 million to assist with operational and some capital works costs, runs to 2013. A midterm review of Scitech operations is scheduled to start shortly. This will inform decisions concerning Scitech's future funding and location. In working with Scitech, consideration needs to be given to its market, visitor location and accessibility, the full range of funding options and the outcomes it provides to the people of Western Australia for the investment committed.