

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — PEEL REGION

783. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to comments made last week by the member for Murray–Wellington about the fact that the Peel region has “missed out badly” on royalties for regions funding, and in particular his observation that the region is “crying out for long overdue amenities and infrastructure” including “a new hospital for Pinjarra, a major new industrial development at Nambeelup, and sporting facilities such as the proposed Coolup equestrian centre and a new motorcycle park at Pinjarra”.

Will this government member’s comments about this “serious imbalance” bring about a change in the government’s policy of granting the Peel region only \$18 million in 2012–13, while the Pilbara, the wheatbelt and the great southern received \$375 million, \$77 million and \$65 million respectively?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

Royalties for regions funding is subject to a rigorous process that involves engagement with key stakeholders, business case scrutiny and approval by the Minister for Regional Development and state cabinet, taking into consideration present government policy and priorities.