

BANKWEST — LICENCE

147. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to Bankwest's banking licence.

- (1) When will the government be introducing legislation to amend the Bank of Western Australia Act 1995?
- (2) Has the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority advised the government of the date by which amendments to the Bank of Western Australia Act have to be made; and, if so, what is that advice?
- (3) How many times over the past 12 months has the minister or representatives of the minister met with representatives from Bankwest in relation to its banking licence?
- (4) How many times over the past 12 months has the minister or representatives of the minister met with APRA to discuss the Bankwest banking licence?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. The Treasurer has advised me of the following —

- (1) The government has been in discussions with Bankwest regarding amendments to the act. These discussions are ongoing and a final decision to proceed has yet to be made by the government.
- (2) Yes, by mid-2012.
- (3) The Treasurer has met with Bankwest in relation to its banking licence twice over the past 12 months. Members of the Treasurer's office have met with Bankwest numerous times, and the Treasurer is willing to provide this information. However, the member is asked to put this question on notice so that an exact and accurate number can be provided.
- (4) The Treasurer has not met with APRA regarding Bankwest's banking licence in the past 12 months and neither has any staff member in his office.