

AGRICULTURE — BLACK APPLE VARIETY

1571. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the media article in the *Countryman* on Thursday, 10 July 2014 “Black Apple expected to be a smash hit for WA”, and ask:

- (a) what research has been done to ensure the viability of this fruit;
- (b) are there other black/dark apples in the:
  - (i) Australian market; and
  - (ii) international market;
- (c) if yes to (b),:
  - (i) what are their names and locations; and
  - (ii) what are we doing to differentiate the Australian “black apple” in the international market;
- (d) how much is in the State Budget to promote this apple in the international market;
- (e) is the Department of Agriculture and Food using an international expert to assist in the promotion of this apple and, if yes, who; and
- (f) is the apple’s colour also a product of its environment?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

- (a) The fruit has undergone taste panel testing that indicates that its flavour is acceptable to consumers. It has also been tested to confirm its suitability for controlled atmosphere storage.
- (b)
  - (i) There are no truly black apples. Red Delicious is one of the darker skinned apples commonly consumed in Australia.
  - (ii) Varieties with similar skin tone to the fruit of ANABP 01 include the Arkansas Black variety grown in the United States.
- (c)
  - (i) See (b) (ii)
  - (ii) The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia has appointed a licensee to commercialise the apple known as ANABP 01.
- (d) No government funds are allocated for its marketing.
- (e) See (c) (ii)
- (f) The colour and patterning of any piece of fruit will be the result of both genetic and environmental factors.