

MURESK INSTITUTE AGRICULTURAL DEGREE — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET

**703. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to question without notice 632 and the minister's response on 14 September 2017.

- (1) Could the minister please provide a detailed breakdown of the \$2.7 million detailed on page 220 of budget paper No 3 under the line item "Muresk Institute Agricultural Degree"?
- (2) What level of funding did Charles Sturt University indicate was required to reach self-sustaining enrolment levels for the course it is providing?
- (3) How many times has the minister or staff from her office met with Curtin University representatives to discuss the proposed associate agribusiness degree at Muresk?
- (4) On these occasions, was the minister approached by Curtin University or was the university approached by the minister?
- (5) Was Curtin University's agreement to deliver its associate degree through Muresk reached on the proviso that the CSU degree was taught out?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The \$2.7 million covers past subsidies to the course and makes a provision to support current students enrolled in the Muresk Institute agricultural degree to complete their course.
- (2) Charles Sturt University has not indicated the level of funding required to reach self-sustaining enrolment levels for it to directly run the course. For Central Regional TAFE to continue delivering the course on behalf of Charles Sturt University, a minimum of 149 full-time equivalent students enrolled in first year through to third year would be required, equating to approximately \$1.1 million of funding from Charles Sturt University to Central Regional TAFE per annum for the course to be self-sustainable.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.