

GOLDFIELDS–ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION — FOODBANK FUNDING

357. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Regional Development:

With reference to the Foodbank application for Royalties for Regions funding in 2009 outlined in the Foodbank business case document located at

<http://www.robinchapple.com/sites/default/files/Foodbank%20business%20case.pdf>,

when Graham Thomson was Chairman of the Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and responsible for both the assessment and approval of Royalties for Regions grant applications, I ask:

- (a) was Foodbank granted \$200,000 Royalties for Regions funding from the GEDC;
- (b) did Foodbank acquire a transportable building for the project via Graham Thomson or companies he controls;
- (c) did Graham Thomson and/or his company Logistics Management Services complete the costing and relevant plans for the Foodbank application for funding;
- (d) did Graham Thomson declare a conflict of interest and remove himself for consideration of the Foodbank application;
- (e) if no to (d), why not; and
- (f) If no to (d), what action will the Minister take?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

- (a) Yes
- (b) The application business case dated 24 March 2009 states “*This project has been specifically costed by Graham Thompson. Our timeframe gives a time allowance that can be met. The proposed building is an existing transportable*”.

However, subsequent correspondence from Foodbank dated 21 September 2010 stated “*The transportable kitchen classroom did not hold up to the scrutiny of professional builders. The wooden floor would not be durable enough for operations of pallet trolleys. Lotterywest stepped forward to offer support of up to \$700,000. This allowed the Foodbank to elevate the vision to design a purpose built facility in Kalgoorlie Boulder.*” Foodbank requested that the GEDC funding be applied to the cost of construction of the office and amenity building.

- (c) The application business case dated 24 March 2009 states that he did.
- (d) GEDC records indicate no conflict of interest was recorded by Mr Thomson.
- (e)–(f) The Minister has asked the current Chairman of the GEDC to make further enquiries on this matter.