

DOPPLER RADAR

351. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is the Department of Agriculture and Food planning to use further royalties for regions funds to expand its network of automatic weather stations across Western Australia?
- (2) If so, how many automatic weather stations are to be installed?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of the project and the anticipated time frame for installation?
- (4) What consideration has been given to the installation of Doppler radar, given that Doppler radar technology is far superior and can supply higher quality data than standard radars and automatic weather stations?
- (5) Why is the Department of Agriculture and Food not installing Doppler radar when there is overwhelming evidence to show that Doppler capability can provide real-time operational applications, which are known to be highly accurate and used by various industries including agriculture, meteorologists, aviators, emergency services and mining companies?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Department of Agriculture and Food has recently commissioned a consultancy to clearly define the benefits and costs of high-resolution radar stations. This work will be used as a basis for putting forward a business case for Doppler radar stations in the royalties for regions infrastructure project.
- (5) DAFWA is aware of the potential benefits to the broader community and industry of Doppler capability. The benefits and costs need to be clearly defined and determined. Once this is done, any decision as to the level of investment by the state in this infrastructure will be better informed.