

RANGELANDS — LAND USES

119. Hon DARREN WEST to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to a key proposal for the land administration amendment bill 2016 to allow for multiple and varied uses of the rangelands, such as grazing livestock, horticulture, agriculture and tourism.

- (1) What investigation and/or analysis has the state government carried out to determine the economic impact of this proposal on the competitiveness of existing horticulture and/or agriculture-focused landowners?
- (2) How will the state government ensure that the businesses of existing horticulture and/or agriculture-focused landowners are not unfairly impacted for having invested in this industry in years prior to the introduction of this potentially cheaper land for new entrants?
- (3) What compensation will the state government pay to existing landowners if their costs of production are shown to be less competitive in relation to the new market entrants who are able to secure larger areas of land at lower rates?
- (4) If no compensation is to be paid, why not?
- (5) Will new rangelands leaseholders who engage in agriculture and/or horticulture activities have to adhere to any terms and conditions in relation to the types and volumes of crops they are permitted to grow; and, if not, why not?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Lands, I provide the following response —

- (1) None.
- (2) The Valuer-General provides advice to the Minister for Lands based on the use of the land to determine the lease rental value. In recommending a rental value, the Valuer-General takes into account market rates for similar activities.
- (3) None.
- (4) No compensation can be considered as the rent is based on market conditions.
- (5) The rangelands lease may include provisions on the type and area of cropping, in addition to the broader rangelands use.