

PUBLIC SECTOR REDUCTION — AGENT GENERAL, LONDON

16. Hon PHIL EDMAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

My question relates to the comments made by the Premier and Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, Mark McGowan, in a press conference on Friday, 28 April in which he announced that the number of government departments would be reduced by 40 per cent. Knowing that Western Australia benefits greatly from the presence of its trade office in London by promoting investment in our state throughout Europe; that the office of the Agent General in London has status that was established before Australian Federation, giving the Agent General quasi-diplomatic status; and that this status cannot be re-established once severed —

- (1) Does the Premier really wish to jeopardise this status by closing the trade office in London?
- (2) Does he agree that downsizing the office would be more appropriate, as doing so would allow the government to maintain this quasi-diplomatic status?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of State Development advises —

- (1)–(2) All Western Australian public sector functions are under review, including the trade offices located overseas.