

ORD RIVER STAGE 2 PROJECT

7381. Mr P. Papalia to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

- (1) How much State Government money has been spent on the Ord River Stage 2 Project?
- (2) How much Federal Government money has been spent on the Ord River Stage 2 Project?
- (3) In 2010, what was the acreage of rice planted in the Ord River region?
- (4) In 2010, what amount of the rice crop, expressed as a volume in tonnage and dollar value, was sold by the Ord River rice producers; and
 - (a) to what market was the crop referred to in (3) and (4) sold?
- (5) In 2011, what was the acreage of rice planted in the Ord River region?
- (6) In 2011, what amount of the rice crop, expressed as a volume in tonnage and dollar value was sold by the Ord River rice producers; and
 - (a) to what market was the crop referred to in (5) and (6) sold?
- (7) In 2010, what was the acreage of any crop other than rice planted/sown in the Ord River region?
- (8) In 2010, what amount of the crop other than rice, expressed as a volume in tonnage and dollar value was sold by the Ord River producers; and
 - (a) to what market was the crop referred to in (7) and (8) sold?
- (9) In 2011, what was the acreage of any crop other than rice planted/sown in the Ord River region?
- (10) In 2011, what amount of the crop other than rice, expressed as a volume in tonnage and dollar value was sold by the Ord River producers; and
 - (a) to what market was the crop referred to in (9) and (10) sold?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1) Total current and planned expenditure is \$301 million for infrastructure and project development. An additional \$10 million has been approved for the Aboriginal Development Package under the Ord Final Agreement.
- (2) The Federal Government has committed \$195 million for social and community infrastructure in the east Kimberley region through a National Partnership Agreement, which partners with the State Government funding of the Ord Irrigation Expansion Project.
- (3) In 2010, the commercial rice crop was 240 hectares and grown by two farmers. Research trials conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) totalled about 10 hectares and was grown at the Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture.
- (4) The average yield of the commercial rice crop in 2010 was 7.5 tonnes/hectare, giving a total production of 1860 tonnes. SunRice provided a farm gate value of \$550 per tonne for the rice giving a gross value of production of \$1 023 000.
 - (a) SunRice processed the rice at a mill in Papua New Guinea and marketed the resulting rice products to customers in the Pacific.
- (5) In 2011, the commercial rice crop totalled 650 hectares and was grown by three farmers. There was an additional eight hectares of experimental rice grown at the Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture.
- (6) A total of approximately 1150 tonnes of paddy rice was delivered to the Ord River District Cooperative from two growers with the third commercial grower choosing to cut their crop for hay. This paddy tonnage was dried and hulled at the Cooperative. The crop was affected by rice blast disease and yields from the commercial crops varied from 2.7–7.5 tonnes/hectare. SunRice did not disclose a farm gate value for the 2011 crop.
 - (a) From the total brown rice tonnage produced from dehulling, 90 per cent was purchased by SunRice and exported to its mill in Papua New Guinea for further processing. SunRice did not identify its processed rice markets. The remaining 10 per cent was not of adequate quality for the retail market and will be marketed into the pastoral or pet food industries in 2012.
- (7) [See paper 4716.]

- (8) [See paper 4716.]
 - (a) All harvested product from the 2010 season was sold to domestic markets in Australia.
- (9) The areas of crops planted during 2011 are not yet available. Significant differences from 2010 were that no commercial rice was grown, but 770 hectares of cotton was planted. Yields from the cotton are unknown but expected to be about 4000 bales (lint). Other commodities are expected to be similar to 2010.