

LAND ADMINISTRATION BILL 2016 — PASTORAL AND RANGELANDS LEASES

**639. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:**

I refer to the Land Administration Amendment Bill 2016, which provides a legislative basis for reform and tenure of pastoral and rangelands leases. A pastoral advisory panel will comprise only two pastoralists, whose role will be to review issues and disputes and report to the minister. Given that the pastoral and rangelands leases will cover approximately two-thirds of the state of Western Australia, can the minister please advise —

- (1) whether consideration has been given to the likely workload of the nominated pastoralists?
- (2) whether consideration has been given to compensating the pastoralists for their role, and —
  - (a) if yes, what is the level of compensation is likely to be; and
  - (b) if no, why not?
- (3) Why will such a role be introduced, given that the minister will be under no obligation to abide by the recommendations of the pastoralists?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
  - (a) The Land Administration Amendment Bill 2016 provides for the establishment of an industry review panel drawn from a preselected pool of eligible persons. The eligible persons will have operational expertise and experience in land condition matters in a rangelands or pastoral industry context. The panel will be selected by an industry endorsed selection panel that will call for expressions of interest based on an agreed set of criteria. Those responding to the request for expressions of interest will be required to nominate an hourly rate for services provided. The selection panel will assess the expressions of interest and make selections based on State Supply Commission procurement policies, including value for money. Before making an adverse decision on a land condition matter on a particular rangelands or pastoral lease, the Minister for Lands will be required to obtain independent advice from an industry review panel. The industry review panel will comprise three persons, appointed by the minister from the panel of eligible persons, as described, on a case-by-case basis.
  - (b) Not applicable.
- (3) Under the current legislation, the Minister for Lands can direct the Pastoral Lands Board with respect to the exercise or performance of its functions. The Land Administration Amendment Bill 2016 provides the minister with general powers in relation to crown land in Western Australia. The addition of the requirement for the minister to seek advice from an IRP means the minister will receive independent advice from those with expertise and experience in land condition management and will take this into account in his or her role in making decisions on crown land. Pastoralists will have the opportunity to appeal adverse decisions to the State Administrative Tribunal and the advice from the IRP will be available for consideration by SAT. The new role of the IRP has been created in response to requests and consultation from the pastoral industry directly.