

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — BEEKEEPERS

909. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

(1) As at 1 July 2015 —

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Darren West has got a ventriloquist in the chamber!

Hon DARREN WEST: Mr President, with this cold, anything is possible. I continue —

- (1) As at 1 July 2015 how many officers were employed by the Department of Agriculture and Food to work in research and support for apiarists?
- (2) Are there any plans to change the level of support; and, if so, how many officers will this affect and when?
- (3) Do individual registered beekeepers contribute toward the cost of this research and support; and, if so, how much has been contributed in each of the following financial years —
 - (a) 2012–13;
 - (b) 2013–14;
 - (c) 2014–15; and
 - (d) to date in 2015–16?
- (4) How many commercial and non-commercial beekeepers are registered in WA; and, of those, how many of each are located in regional WA?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) There are 2.7 full-time equivalent officers.
- (2) Yes. There was one officer in November–December 2015.
- (3) Individual beekeepers do not contribute to research or support conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Food for apiarists. DAFWA has received external funds from organisations such as Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for bee research in the past.
- (4) There are 1 314 registered beekeepers in WA, of which 104 are commercial—with 50 or more hives. Of the commercial beekeepers, 47 have their registered address in the Perth metropolitan area, with 57 in the rest of WA.