

NORTHERN TOWNS DEVELOPMENT FUND

1025. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to my question regarding the northern towns development fund.

- (1) Has the eligibility criteria been established for this fund; and, if yes, what is it?
- (2) If no, when will the eligibility criteria be finalised?

Hon WENDY DUNCAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question—in fact it is considerable notice as the question was asked on 16 September, so the answer is relevant to that date.

- (1) Yes, eligibility to access this fund is based upon one or more of the following principles —
 - The project should be aligned with one or more of royalties for regions objectives.
 - The project should have relevance across Western Australia as defined by the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993, schedule 1.
 - The project should contribute to the regional priorities identified by the Regional Development Council and/or strategic plans of the regional development commissions.
 - The project should have the support of regional development commissions and other regional stakeholders.
 - The project should demonstrate a commitment to local and regional decision-making and planning.
 - The project should promote partnership and/or cooperative arrangements.
 - The project should not result in unfair competition to existing industry and/or business.
 - Applicants should demonstrate planning and management experience and expertise suitable for managing projects of this type.
 - The project must be ready to proceed and reasonably expected to be completed within the specified time frame.
 - Voluntary and community groups applying for funding must be incorporated or have equivalent status.
 - Applicants should demonstrate a high level of financial commitment to the project, either through sourcing other project funding and/or a direct financial contribution.
 - The applicant must demonstrate project viability and that it has financial capacity to meet ongoing operating and/or maintenance costs.

Additionally, this fund will also address planning deficiencies in northern towns identified by the WA Planning Commission's regional planning committee deliberations.

The member should also note that the northern towns development fund is not a contestable fund. It is available to state agencies to access for use in planning and development of northern towns, with the overarching royalties for regions principles applicable to expenditures from it.

- (2) Not applicable.