

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT OFFICE, JAKARTA

742. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

Given that the WA agriculture department has given notice that it will cease to have a Western Australian agribusiness development manager in the Indonesian trade commission to act on behalf of WA agriculture and to support the new trade commissioner, Mr Chris Barnes —

- (1) What are the reasons behind the decision to replace the existing agribusiness development manager and what employment options will be provided to the incumbent?
- (2) What is the likely cost to WA taxpayers to replace the incumbent and what future cost savings have been identified?
- (3) How does the Department of Agriculture and Food view the role and importance of this position?
- (4) What are the plans for employing a new agribusiness development manager in the Indonesian trade office and what skills and experiences would make an ideal candidate?
- (5) What effect will the new position have on the future of agricultural trade given the department is losing multiple years of agricultural experience and local knowledge?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia is not ceasing to have a representative in Indonesia.

- (1) DAFWA aims to employ a local representative to enhance the relationship with Indonesian businesses that have an interest in trade and investment that benefits Western Australia. The incumbent will be provided with employment options according to DAFWA's operational needs after a suitable candidate has been employed and an appropriate handover has been completed.
- (2) The employment of local in-market expertise is a significant saving in terms of salary and operating costs.
- (3) DAFWA is appointing an officer to replace the incumbent and views the position as important to future trade and investment opportunities for Western Australian agriculture and food businesses.
- (4) DAFWA is negotiating options to employ a local representative in collaboration with the Western Australian trade and investment office in Jakarta. The skills and experience sought will be commensurate with such a representative role.
- (5) DAFWA aims to employ a local representative to enhance the relationship with Indonesian businesses that have an interest in trade and investment that benefits Western Australia.