

DROUGHT CONCESSIONAL LOAN SCHEME

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

I refer to arrangements between the WA government and the commonwealth in relation to the drought concessional loans scheme.

- (1) Has the minister agreed to the guidelines that will apply to WA farmers wishing to access funds from the DCLS?
- (2) If yes —
  - (a) will the guidelines be similar to those that have been approved in Queensland and New South Wales;
  - (b) when will the scheme be available to WA farming families; and
  - (c) over what period will the fund be available?
- (3) How much of the \$32 million package will come to Western Australia?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) No; the commonwealth has yet to finalise the guidelines for the commonwealth drought concessional loans scheme.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No allocation has been finalised and I continue to negotiate with the commonwealth on how much of the \$320 million package will come to Western Australia.