

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING — LIVESTOCK

225. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the memorandum of understanding between Western Australia Police and the Department of Agriculture and Food under which funding and responsibilities were transferred from the WA Police stock squad to DAFWA's livestock compliance unit in May 2009.

- (1) What amount of funding was transferred between the agencies for each of the years 2010 to 2014?
- (2) How many personnel were assigned to the livestock compliance unit for each of the years 2010 to 2014?
- (3) What quantum of the annual funding was applied to —
 - (a) tracking and compliance for livestock transfers through the national livestock identification system and other established livestock identification systems for each of the years 2010 to 2014;
 - (b) animal welfare issues for each of the years 2010 to 2014; and
 - (c) other for each of the years 2010 to 2014?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) An amount of \$252 700 was permanently transferred to the base funding for the Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia in 2011–12.
- (2) The following personnel numbers are based on beginning of financial year budget estimate summaries and do not account for staff changes throughout each year. In 2010–11, three staff members were in livestock compliance. From 2011–12, the functions of livestock compliance and animal welfare regulation and inspection were combined into the livestock compliance unit. From 2011–12, there has been a minimum of seven staff in the livestock compliance unit.
- (3) The transfer funding from the Western Australia Police has not been quarantined separately within the livestock compliance unit budget. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding, livestock compliance unit inspectors assist Western Australia Police with livestock crime investigations and maintain a presence at points of livestock aggregation in Western Australia to deter stock theft and encourage industry compliance with stock identification and movement legislation. Any requests made by Western Australia Police for assistance with livestock crime investigations are treated as the highest priority.