

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — ADVERSE AUDIT RESULTS

191. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the minister's reply on 12 March to my letter regarding the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's unprecedented adverse audit results, and note in which the minister indicated that specific questions on the matter may be directed through parliamentary procedures.

- (1) Has the minister provided a public explanation regarding the government response to the adverse opinion?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the minister please table this?
- (3) What steps have been taken to address failures in controls of the receipt, expenditure and investment of money?
- (4) What steps have been taken to address failures in the monitoring of cash balances to ensure that there is sufficient cash to meet operational payments?
- (5) What steps have been taken to address the inadequate payroll controls, which could result in errors such as overpayments and payments to individuals not entitled to receive payment?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)–(5) The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is working with the Office of the Auditor General to address the areas of concern raised in the report.

Distinguished Visitors — Cook Islands Parliament

The PRESIDENT: Members, before I give the call to the Leader of the Opposition, I would just like to say *kia orana* to Mr Unuia Unuia, technical operations coordinator, and Ms Grace Tera Ioane, who is the senior finance officer from the Cook Islands Parliament. They are spending a week at our Parliament and are part of a professional development attachment that has been supported by the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships Fund, and they are spending question time with us. You are very welcome to the Legislative Council and to Western Australia.

Members: Hear, hear!