

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS, ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

846. Hon John Cowdell to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) Can the Minister for Regional Development confirm that Regional Development Commissions are required to comply with section 175 ZE of the *Electoral Act*?
- (2) Have the -
  - (a) Gascoyne;
  - (b) Kimberley; and
  - (c) Wheatbelt,Development Commissions disclosed their advertising expenditure for the -
  - (i) 1997-98; and
  - (ii) 1998-99,financial years?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What was the advertising expenditure for each of the above-mentioned Regional Development Commissions in the -
  - (a) 1997-98; and
  - (b) 1998-99,financial years?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) Yes, the Regional Development Commissions are required to comply with section 175ZE of the Electoral Act.
- (2) The Gascoyne Development Commission did not separately disclose advertising expenditure for 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the annual reports.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The advertising expenditure of the Gascoyne Development Commission for the period 1997-98 and 1998-99 is shown.

	1997-98	1998-99
Media - Northern Guardian	\$1 368.50	\$4 131.90
TV GWN		\$1 784.00
TV WIN	-	-
Radio 6LN		\$626.00
Carnarvon Community News		\$385.00
Gascoyne Community Directory		\$490.00
Geraldton Newspaper		\$1 409.40
Kalgoorlie Miner		\$296.60
Marketforce Productions	\$3 412.56	\$10 191.10
Media Decisions		\$8 147.57
Phoenix Communications		\$10 570.00
West Australian		\$69.30
Totals	\$4 781.06	\$38 100.87

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Kimberley Development Commission made no Electoral Act disclosure in its annual reports of 1997-98 or 1998-99.
- (3) The Kimberley Development Commission has interpreted the requirements of section 175ZE, of the Electoral Act 1907, within the context of the other provisions of the Electoral Act 1907, to highlight a requirement to disclose classes of expenditure incurred for electoral purposes and matters. The commission incurred no expenditure in the listed categories, within its interpretation. The commission's interpretation is guided by

- (a) No adverse report being made by the Office of the Auditor General in respect of the commission's failure to report against section 175ZE in either of its 1997-98 or 1998-99 annual reports.
- (b) The Political Finance Report 1997, tabled 12 August 1998, wherein the Electoral Commissioner recommended -
- That section 175ZE of the Electoral Act regarding reporting on electoral expenditure by public agencies be moved to a more appropriate piece of legislation such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.
- Whilst the commission has not received information which directly challenges its interpretation, it has complied in its 1999-2000 annual report with the requirements of section 175ZE as interpreted by other agencies.

- (4) Consistent with the interpretation of the reporting requirements of other portfolio agencies, the commission's advertising expenditure for each of the preceding financial years was -

	1997-98	1998-99
Advertising Market Force	\$4 292.00	\$14 163.00
Market Research - Asset Research	Nil	\$4 890.00
Polling	Nil	Nil
Direct Mail	Nil	Nil
Media Advertising		
Kimberley Echo	\$120.00	Nil
Broome Advertiser	\$98.00	Nil
Boab Babbler	\$100.00	Nil
NT News	\$294.00	Nil
Pay Dirt Productions	\$285.00	Nil
Prospect Magazine	\$149.00	Nil
Trade Route Magazine	Nil	\$350.00
Total	\$5 338.00	\$19 403.00

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The Wheatbelt Development Commission complied with the interpretation of section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 that requires the commission to report on electoral expenditure only. In 1999 the commission became aware of the interpretation that the Act required disclosure of all expenditure. The 1999-2000 annual report includes such disclosure.
- (3) Wheatbelt Development Commission expenditure on advertising to 1997-98 was \$4 262.74 and 1998-99 was \$11 053.90.