

RED TAPE REDUCTION GROUP — COSTS

3988. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer

I refer to Legislative Assembly Tabled Papers Nos 2106 and 2445 and I note that Tabled Paper No. 2106 states that the individual cost of each review, board, committee or taskforce in respect of the Red Tape Reduction Group is said to be \$53,527. However, Tabled Paper No. 2445, which sets out all individual costs for the Red Tape Reduction Group, lists expenses for the Red Tape Reduction Group of \$73,179.32, and I ask:

- (a) why were the full costs of the Red Tape Reduction Group not included in the figure contained in Tabled Paper No. 2106;
- (b) what is the aggregate hours that each member of the Regulatory Reform Group of the Department of Treasury and Finance applied solely to the Red Tape Reduction Group (such as attending formal and informal meetings, travelling time, writing and preparing briefings);
- (c) at what public service grade is each of these officers engaged; and
- (d) including the costs of salaries and the other expenses which were not included in Tabled Paper No. 2106 for the Red Tape Reduction Group, what was the actual (full and complete) costs of the Red Tape Reduction Group?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (a) The figure for the cost of the Red Tape Reduction Group reported in Tabled Paper No. 2106 was the total cost of the Red Tape Reduction Group as at 1 February 2010. Tabled Paper No. 2445 contains the total cost of the Red Tape Reduction Group and includes the costs which were incurred after 1 February 2010.
- (b) The Regulatory Reform Unit of the Department of Treasury and Finance performed the role of secretariat for the Red Tape Reduction Group as one part of its ongoing regulatory reform work. This work was funded from its existing budget and no additional funding allocations were made. Records were not kept of the aggregate hours the Regulatory Reform Unit spent performing the secretariat functions for the Red Tape Reduction Group.
- (c) The following officers spent some time working as part of the Red Tape Reduction Group secretariat:
 - Assistant Director, Regulatory Reform (Level 8)
 - 2 x Principal Policy Officers, Regulatory Reform (Level 7)
 - 2 x Policy Research Officers, Regulatory Reform (Level 4)
 - 1 x Officer (Level 1)
- (d) The cost of the Red Tape Reduction Group was \$73,179.32. A breakdown of these costs is provided in Tabled Paper No. 2445. Salaries for officers employed in the Regulatory Reform Unit are not included in this figure, as the work was funded from the Unit's existing budget and no additional funding allocations were made.