

CYCLONE SEROJA — DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

84. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's announcement of 9 May 2021 that grants of \$4 000 will be made available to small businesses and residents severely impacted by cyclone Seroja.

- (1) What is the specific financial and geographical criteria for a small businesses and for residents to access the \$4 000 grant, and will the Premier table the criteria?
- (2) Which small businesses will be eligible to apply for the \$4 000 grant?
- (3) What is the government's applicable definition of a "small business" deeming it eligible to apply for the grant?
- (4) How was the figure of the \$4 000 grant arrived at or calculated?
- (5) Who will be assessing the grant applications, and what right of appeal does a small business have in the decision-making process?
- (6) Is the grant a tax-free payment for small businesses?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1) Further details of the application process will be available shortly, as highlighted in the media statement released on Sunday, 9 May.
- (2) As noted in the media statement, the sectors will include, for example, small retailers such as specialty shops, hairdressers and bakeries; tourism businesses, including tour operators and fishing boat charters; and hospitality venues including accommodation providers, cafes, restaurants and pubs.
- (3) See the answer to (1).
- (4) The \$4 000 grant aligns with the support to residents for loss or significant damage to homes and recent assistance in response to the Wooroloo bushfires.
- (5) See the answer to (1).
- (6) The tax treatment is a commonwealth matter. However, the grants are expected to be tax-free in accordance with other disaster relief payments to individuals and businesses.