

BANKWEST — BRANCH NETWORK CLOSURE

196. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to section 23(1)(b) of the Bank of Western Australia Act 1995, which established to permanently and forever, via the articles of association, lock in the size and scale of service of Bankwest at the time it was privatised.

- (1) Has the bank complied with section 23 when determining that it will close its branch network in Western Australia?
- (2) When she became aware of the impending restructure via the closures, did the Treasurer seek advice on the bank's compliance with the Bank of Western Australia Act 1995, particularly sections 23 and 24?
- (3) If yes to (2), can the Treasurer outline that advice?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Treasurer.

- (1)–(3) I refer the member to footnote 5 of the Bank of Western Australia Act 1995, which states that sections 23 to 26A of the act expired on the day of transfer to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, being 1 October 2012. Section 26A, which allowed for the expiry of section 23, was introduced by former Treasurer Hon Colin Barnett in 2012.