

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Hon Diane Evers asked:

Question D1

Can you provide further information on the contribution of the state's strategy in relation to dryland salinity management.

Answer:

To address the Auditor General Report (tabled in May 2018), the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) established a Senior Officers' Group (SoG) to review dryland salinity management. An independent Report "A New Direction for Salinity Management in Western Australia" (Report) was completed in December 2018.

The Report included outcomes of consultation with 35 stakeholders representing groups engaged in salinity research, management and implementation. The Report was then open for three months to enable further public consultation. A summary of the report is available on the DPIRD website: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/soil-salinity/new-direction-salinity-management-western-australia-consultative-review>.

The leading recommendation by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and the independent Report was to re-assess the current extent of salinity and risks posed to the State, in the context of reduced rainfall since the last assessment in 2000. DPIRD is working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation to undertake this analysis and field validation will take place in early 2020.

DPIRD has compiled a summary of the public submissions and met with the SoG to review actions and develop the Government's salinity management response.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food requested the newly appointed Soil and Land Conservation Council (SLCC) provide advice on the salinity management response. A progress briefing was provided at its first meeting on 21 October 2019.

In early 2020, a draft Government response will be reviewed by the SLCC in the context of the newly assessed salinity extent data with advice provided to the Minister for consideration.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

Question D2

How much funding has been provided to Regen Network in the last financial year through an NRM grant?

Answer:

For the financial year 2018/19, funding of \$69,926 (ex GST) was provided to Regen Network through an NRM grant. The funds were paid to Perth Region NRM for their project - Establishing the West Australian Regenerative Farmers Network (RegenWA).

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

Question D3

How much of DPIRD's funds went into managing the animal welfare incursions relating to the Aboriginal-owned cattle stations at Noonkanbah and Yandeyarra?

Answer:

DPIRD's costs of responding to the animal welfare incident and providing pastoral support at Yandeyarra are \$568,094, not including staff costs.

DPIRD's costs of responding to the animal welfare incident at Noonkanbah are \$45,685, not including staff costs.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Hon Jim Chown asked:

Question D4

As of today, what is the current number of vacancies in DPIRD?

Since the original Supplementary Question, of the vacancies reported (positions not currently occupied) at that time (117 vacancies), a further 22 vacancies have been filled (and therefore "closed"), reducing current vacancies to 95.

We anticipate of the 95 recruitments, at least 30 per cent of these will be completed by 31 January 2020.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

The Committee asked:

- 1) I refer to the annual report, page 82, Note 4.2 User charges and fees, and ask for a breakdown of 'other user charges and fees'.

Answer:

Other user charges and fees

\$2.7 million	Plant inspections
\$3.5 million	Regulatory fees
\$1.6 million	Services provided to other Government agencies.
\$1.2 million	Pathology testing
\$1.1 million	Fisheries licencing
\$0.6 million	Animal inspections
\$0.5 million	Provision of services (i.e. apiary services, soils and water analysis)
\$0.9 million	Sale of animals and livestock
\$0.7 million	Seed testing
\$0.3 million	Sale of produce
\$0.2 million	Sale of grains and seeds

- 2) I refer to the annual report, page 83, Note 4.3 Commonwealth grants and contributions, and ask for a breakdown of that revenue by project or program.

Answer:

\$1.3 million	funding for pest and weed management programs
\$1.1 million	funding for Indian Ocean Territories
\$0.3 million	funding for Fisheries Research and Development Corporation - research & development programs (Safeguarding Shellfish Industry, Recovery Snapper Stocks, Reduction Net Entanglement)
\$0.2 million	funding for Director of Parks for compliance and policy support
\$0.2 million	funding for Cocos Island Community Resource Centre operations.
\$0.2 million	funding for Development of National Marine Pest Reference Collection

- 3) I refer to the annual report, page 84, Note 4.5 Other revenue, and ask for a breakdown of 'other'.

Answer:

\$9.9 million	Department of Communities - Funding for municipal services
\$3.4 million	Department of Education - Kimberley Schools Project
\$2.8 million	Department of Housing – North West Aboriginal Housing Fund
\$2.6 million	Other Revenue – Recoups and sundries
\$2.0 million	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation – New Industries Fund
\$0.3 million	Royalties for Regions – Regional Estuaries Initiative
\$0.3 million	Fisheries Diesel Fuel Fringe Benefit tax refund
\$0.3 million	Fisheries licencing infringement fines

