

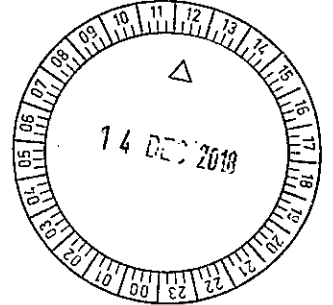
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Supplementary Information No E1

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:



Are you able to provide the committee with—I will be sensible about this—a ballpark estimation about the cost that would be involved in actually delivering the payroll system? Is it something that you can purchase, effectively, off the shelf, or is it going to have to be built from internal departmental resources?

Answer:

The cost to implement a Human Resources Management Information system will be in the order of \$500,000 with the chosen vendor. It would be an off the shelf system with some configuration and customisation to meet agency requirements. It will be implemented by DPIRD staff and external consultant, the cost of which is yet to be determined.

Initialed by-----

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Supplementary Information No E2

Hon Dr Steve Thomas asked:

I will move on, Madam Chair. I will use page 11, which is just the list of legislation managed by the department and, in particular, the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, an act that passed through the Parliament when we were both in that other place, minister. I had quite a bit to do with it. In relation to biosecurity—I could give you plenty of references within the annual report to biosecurity—could I ask specifically in relation to that act, sections 26 to 31 relate to biosecurity. I will give you a little detail just because I happen to have pulled it up here. Section 26 is the duty to report a declared pest; under 27, the director general can issue an exclusion notice; 29 requires compliance with the notice; 30 is the duty to control the pest and under 30(2), the owner or person in control of an area must take the prescribed actions; and 31 is a pest control notice which can be given. You may need to provide this by additional information, I suspect, but can you tell me how many times those sections of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act have been used over this and the last reporting period? How many notices have been issued? How many legal actions have been initiated?


Answer:

In 2016/17, 110 Pest Exclusion Notices were issued under section 27 and 77 Pest Control Notices under section 31 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act). The bulk of the Pest Control Notices were issued in response to the detection of tomato potato psyllid.

In 2017/18, 10 Pest Exclusion Notices were issued under section 27 and 35 Pest Control Notices under section 31 of the BAM Act.

There are no provisions for issuing notices under sections 26, 28, 29 and 30 of the BAM Act.

Legal action is regarded as the taking of remedial action or the issue of an infringement notice or prosecution. Three legal actions were taken under section 31 of the BAM Act in 2016/17 and another three under the same section in 2017/18.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Supplementary Information No E3

Hon Tjorn Sibma asked:

I am interested in data provided on page 56 of the annual report. It is the summary of consolidated appropriations. I am interested in movements in all, but a few in particular, details of expenses by service. I will just note that there has been a reported variation of a positive \$16.7 million spent more than the target figure on productivity, improvement and innovation, but \$13.7 million less spent on support for regional development commissions. I was just wondering whether, I could just get an explanation as to why those variances have occurred.

Answer:

The 2017/18 estimate for the Productivity, Improvement and Innovation service was set as a percentage of the total cost of services for the former Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA). The percentage was determined by using the cost of this service as a percentage of total cost of services based on 2016/17 actuals data.

Using this percentage allocation produced a 2017/18 target of \$35.2 million for this service, which is largely comparable/in-line with the 2016/17 actual of \$36.3 million.

The variance reflects an increase in the number of projects delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development under this service which were not accounted for/anticipated when setting the 2017-18 target. Examples of the most significant projects include:

- Doppler Radar Extension
- Agriculture Science Grower Group
- Northern Beef Development
- Sheep Industry Business Innovation

In addition, the attribution of project expenditure to this service increased compared to previous years.

The 2017/18 actual for the Support for Regional Development Commissions service of \$14.7 million only includes those items that are considered a resource received free of charge in relation to the Regional Development Commissions (RDCs), and excludes all grant payments made by the RDCs. These grant payments are reflected under the Regional Investment service. However, when setting the 2017/18 estimate, grant payments were incorrectly captured under the Support for Regional Development Commissions service. This allocation will be corrected in the 2019-20 Budget Papers and subsequent Annual Report.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Supplementary Information No E4

Hon Dr Steve Thomas asked:

A general statement, on page 51 is the comprehensive income statement and you can really look pretty much anywhere in the financial figures. This time last year, we looked at the list of agency figures and suggested that there was a cross-subsidy between regional development and agriculture, which had been a multiyear process—that regional development had effectively been cross-subsidising agriculture for, let us say, eight years at least, I suspect.

I cannot find a measure of that in an easy way in the set of papers. Is it possible to find out what that—because we had some indication previously of that cross-subsidy, I think in questions, minister, I asked you in the house. But can we get some indication of what that cross-subsidy looks like now?

Can we get that then as additional information—what the R for R top up to agriculture is at the moment?

Answer:

In 2018-19 a total of \$59.192 million has been allocated for agriculture projects under Royalties for Regions. The list of projects and the funding approved over the forward estimates through the 2018-19 State Bilateral budget is provided below.

There are two additional funding provisions under Royalties for Regions that support development and capability funding for agriculture functions in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as follows:

- Agriculture Development Funding \$20 Million
To support additional investment in the Agriculture portfolio to maintain core requirements such as biosecurity, animal welfare legislative requirements and agri-business development.
- Rebuilding our Agriculture Capability \$10 Million.
To maintain its Agricultural Research & Development capacity during the integration of the former Department of Agriculture and Food functions into the new Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, recognising the decline in overall funding for the agency over the previous term of Government.

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**Total Royalties for Regions Funding for Agriculture
2018-19 State Bilateral Budget Forward Estimates**

PROJECT INITIATIVE	2018-19 BP3 2018-19 Budget Estimate	2019-20 BP3 2018- 19 Budget Estimate	2020-21 BP3 2018- 19 Budget Estimate	2021-22 BP3 2018- 19 Budget Estimate	Total Program 2018-19 to 2021-22
Project Funding					
Agricultural Sciences Research and Development Fund	7.333	2.465			20.140
Asia Market Success	1.500				1.500
Boost Grains Research and Development Support	5.061				5.061
Boosting Biosecurity Defences	4.553				4.553
Building WA Grains Research and Development Capacity	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	40.000
Doppler Radar Project	0.114				0.114
Extension of Doppler Radar Coverage	0.564				0.564
Gascoyne Food Bowl	0.500				0.500
Help Grain Growers to Better Manage Risk	2.721				2.721
Myalup-Wellington Water for Growth		10.000	10.000	8.500	28.500
Northern Beef Industry Strategy	2.433				2.433
Transforming Agriculture in the Pilbara	2.898	2.015	0.588		5.501
Potato Marketing Board - Structural Readjustment	0.585				0.585
Premium Food Centre Manjimup	0.800	0.518			1.318
Regional Natural Resource Management - State Barrier Fence	1.150	1.778			2.928
Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme	3.500	7.000	8.500		19.000
Specialist Food Centre Albany	0.600	0.413			1.013
Water for Food - Part II	1.033				1.033
Water for Food West Kimberley	0.810				0.810
Wild Dogs Action Plan	5.569	4.566	1.523		11.658
Regional Men's Health	0.800	0.800			1.600
Managing Western Australia's Natural Resources: Supporting Community Involvement	0.468				0.468
Natural Resource Management Program	6.200	6.200	6.200	6.200	24.800
Sub-total	59.192	45.755	36.811	24.700	176.800

<i>Fiscal Cliff Funding</i>					
Agriculture - Development Funding	6.766	11.140	2.094		20.000
Rebuilding our Agriculture Capability	10.000				10.000
Sub-total	16.766	11.140	2.094	0.000	30.000
TOTAL AGRICULTURE	75.953	56.895	38.905	24.700	206.800