

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — MAGPIES — TREENDALE

1349. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the use of a professional shooter by the Department of Parks and Wildlife to euthanase two aggressive magpies in Treendale on 23 October.

- (1) Are there procedures that require the Department of Parks and Wildlife to inform the public when using a shooter to cull animals?
- (2) Was the public made aware that a shooter was going to be in the area beforehand?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Given that concerns have been raised by the public about safety and a lack of information, will the Department of Parks and Wildlife review procedures to inform the public, particularly given this was in a residential area?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Departmental staff spoke to nearby residents to advise them of the intention to destroy the offending birds. This approach was made to those previously injured by bird attacks and to persons whom staff were aware of in the immediate vicinity at the time the birds were destroyed. As the bird in question was on a reserve managed by the Shire of Harvey, shire approval was obtained to shoot on its land and the Bunbury police were advised prior to the shooter discharging the firearm.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The department has standard procedures when dealing with this type of incident that take into account safety requirements. It is not practical in such circumstances to notify all members of the public in the general area. However, every attempt is made to minimise concern to nearby residents.