

UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND - PEST ANIMAL AND WEED CONTROL

1075. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How much was spent on pest animal and weed control on unallocated crown land in 2006-07?
- (2) On which parcels of unallocated crown land have these controls been put in place?
- (3) How does the government measure the success or failure of these control programs on unallocated crown land?
- (4) How many species of weeds have been eliminated or eradicated in Western Australia from 2001 to the present?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following answer.

- (1) Total Department of Environment and Conservation expenditure in 2006-07 across all lands, including national parks, nature reserves, state forest and unallocated crown land, was approximately \$3.1 million for weed control and \$6.7 million for feral animal control. Because programs are often integrated across land tenures, separate figures for individual categories of land are not readily available. However, the total expenditure on unallocated crown land in 2006-07 was around \$870 000. Total expenditure across all lands managed by DEC for 2007-08 is anticipated to be in the order of \$8.1 million.
- (2) Pest animal and weed control works have been carried out by DEC on unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves along the south coast and in the goldfields, mid-west, Pilbara, Kimberley, wheatbelt, Warren and south west regions. Priorities are discussed with relevant regional agricultural groups such as those established through the Agriculture Protection Board, including zone control authorities. Significant expenditure was made on the control of wild dogs on unallocated crown lands in the north eastern wheatbelt and southern rangelands and on the control of weeds on unallocated crown land in the Fitzroy River area and near the south coast.
- (3) The success or failure of control programs is generally measured by the presence, absence or population density of the treated pest animals and weeds or by the impact of the pests on native flora, fauna and vegetation or neighbouring values.
- (4) Weed eradication is extremely difficult to achieve. Saving Our Species funding has been applied to control approximately 51 weed species on DEC-managed reserves and crown land. I table a list of the species being targeted for local eradication.

[See paper 3485.]