

FERAL HORSES — LAKE GREGORY

**762. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:**

I refer to the management of feral horses at Lake Gregory.

- (1) Has aerial culling of the feral horses taken place this week?
- (2) What is the extent of the aerial culling and what activity is planned in coming weeks?
- (3) What information has been provided to local communities regarding the activities occurring this week on the lands around Lake Gregory?
- (4) Have consultations been held by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs or the Aboriginal Lands Trust with the following groups regarding the proposed cull or other management of the horses —
  - (a) Mallingbar Aboriginal Corporation—the Mulan community;
  - (b) Mindibungu Aboriginal Corporation—the Billiluna community;
  - (c) Tjurabalan prescribed body corporate; and
  - (d) Kimberley Land Council?
- (5) When were these consultations held and what was the outcome?
- (6) Have other management options for the control of feral horse numbers been considered or discussed with these groups; and, if so, what are these options, when were they considered and why have they been rejected?
- (7) Has advice been sought by the DAA from the RSPCA about aerial culling?
- (8) If yes to (7), what is that advice, and will the minister table it?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?

**The PRESIDENT:** The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in response to that very long question.

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

Thank you, Mr President, but it is a very good question and I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Aboriginal Lands Trust has engaged the Department of Agriculture and Food WA to conduct a feral animal control operation on Lake Gregory. It is anticipated that the control operation will be completed on 1 November 2013.
- (3) A Department of Aboriginal Affairs officer travelled to the Mulan and Billiluna communities on 24 October 2013 to provide the communities with information regarding the proposed control.
- (4) (a)–(d) Yes.
- (5) During 2010 and 2013, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal Lands Trust visited the Mulan and Billiluna communities on numerous occasions to discuss the control of feral horses on Lake Gregory.

The Kimberley Land Council, on behalf of the KLC board; the Tjurabalan traditional owners, which includes the Mulan and Billiluna communities; and the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area steering committee wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 21 August 2013 requesting that the WA government proceed immediately with the horse cull around the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area, which covers the Lake Gregory and Billiluna pastoral leases. I will table the letter from the Kimberley Land Council.
- (6) I will table the requested information.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Yes. In its letter to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, which I will table, the RSPCA sets out the factors that need to be in place to ensure that aerial shooting is humane. The RSPCA's requirements were addressed. I will table the information.

The RSPCA has received a copy of the control operations plan and is receiving operational updates daily. On 29 October 2013, the RSPCA issued a media statement noting "RSPCA believes that under strict conditions an aerial cull is the most humane method at Lake Gregory."
- (9) Not applicable.

I now table all those documents.

**The PRESIDENT:** I believe the minister referred to four in that answer.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Yes, there were four.

[See paper 940.]