

MAIN ROADS — DECLARED PESTS

**61. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to the previous minister's response to my question without notice 1306 regarding actions taken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the control of rabbits in the locality of the Shire of Esperance.

- (1) Has the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development commenced any discussions with Main Roads WA regarding its ongoing compliance with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the nature of those discussions?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) What proactive compliance actions does DPIRD undertake regarding compliance with the BAM act by state government agencies?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) Rabbits are a category 3 declared pest, defined as being “widespread and established” pests. Where local landholders and communities place a high priority on a category 3 pest, the state government supports local level control and response by landholders and local communities through matched funding. I met with the Esperance Biosecurity Association today and confirmed that they have not identified rabbits as a priority for local control. DPIRD proactively supports state government agencies and community groups with the release of biological control in rabbit population hotspots, including on five occasions in the Esperance area in 2022.