

AGRICULTURE — LIVESTOCK EUTHANASIA

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

I refer to the fires that occurred within the Shires of Kondinin and Lake Grace on 11–12 February 2022.

- (1) Was the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development contacted on Saturday, 12 February to assist with assessing and potentially euthanising livestock?
- (2) As a consequence of that contact —
 - (a) did an officer from DPIRD commit to have a DPIRD veterinarian attend on the morning of Sunday, 14 February 2022; and
 - (b) did a DPIRD veterinarian subsequently attend on that day?
- (3) If no to (2)(b), why not; and, were alternative solutions offered?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) On the evening of 11 February 2022, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was contacted by a Corrigin farmer about an animal welfare concern at a property in Newdegate. On that same night, DPIRD officers contacted the Newdegate fire incident command and made contact with the Newdegate property owner regarding the animal welfare concern, which is consistent with the emergency response arrangements. The property owner, as the person responsible for the care and welfare of the animals, advised that they had arranged for the assessment of the animals on 12 February and, again, on 13 February. There was no request by the property owners for a DPIRD veterinarian to attend. It is understood that animals were euthanised on 12 and 13 February. DPIRD made further contact with the property owner on 14 February to ensure that all possible assistance was being provided.