

WILD DOGS — FENCING AND BOUNTY TRIAL

267. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the escalating wild dog problem faced by pastoralists.

- (1) Can the minister advise the status of the proposal to support the construction of a fence connecting the No 2 barrier fence south east of Meekatharra to the state barrier fence north east of Mullewa, which will fence off 88 000 square kilometres of land?
- (2) Given the excellent results of the bounty trial in which more than 500 dogs were eradicated, can the minister advise whether the program will be extended?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) A business case for funding the Murchison region vermin cell through royalties for regions funding is being developed by the Mid West Development Commission and the Meekatharra recognised biosecurity group. The business case will be considered through the normal royalties for regions project assessment and approval process.
- (2) The Department of Agriculture and Food WA has only recently—on 13 March 2015—provided the report on the Murchison wild dog bounty trial based on the scalp returns in interviews with the participants. I will consider the review report and decide on any future trial over the coming weeks.