

RANGELAND CONDITION MONITORING — PASTORAL STATIONS

1448. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia pastoral condition assessment reports, the Western Australian Rangeland Monitoring System (WARMS) and the pastoral stations Binthalya, Boolathana, Brick House, Callagiddy, Callytharra Springs, Cardabia, Coalya, Cooralya, Doorawarra, Edagee, Ellavalla, Gnaraloo, Hill Springs, Kennedy Range, Lyndon, Manberry, Mardathuna, Marrilla, Marron, Meedo, Meeragoolia, Mia Mia, Middalya, Minilya, Moogooree, Mooka, Pimbee, Quobba, Wahroonga, Wandagee, Warroora, Williambury, Winning, Wooramel, Woyyo, Yalbalgo, Yalobia and Yaringa, and I ask:

- (a) which of these stations are farming sheep;
- (b) which of these stations are farming Damara or Dorper species;
- (c) which of these stations are farming goats;
- (d) what are the estimated numbers of farmed animals on each station;
- (e) what is the estimated density of farmed animals on each station;
- (f) what are the latest pastoral condition assessment reports for these stations;
- (g) will the Minister table the latest pastoral condition assessment reports for these stations;
- (h) if no to (g), why not;
- (i) are any of these stations subject to any changes in Range Land Condition Index reports;
- (j) are there any negative changes in rangeland conditions for the above stations;
- (k) if yes to (j), which stations;
- (l) is the Minister and the department concerned about the rangelands conditions for any of the above stations;
- (m) if yes to (l), which stations; and
- (n) if yes to (l), what is the Minister intending to do about the conditions?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

In respect to the list of pastoral stations you seek information on, I would bring to your attention that Coalya, Woyyo and Yalobia are not current properties or properties that are known to have existed in the past. The former Kennedy Range and Binthalya pastoral stations now comprise the Kennedy Range Conservation Park, and Mooka and Pimbee have also been surrendered from the pastoral estate to be managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Moogooree has long been incorporated into Williambury station.

Of the remaining stations I am pleased to advise the following:

- (a) Boolathana, Callagiddy, Cooralya, Edagee, Ella Valla, Gnaraloo, Manberry, Marron, Meeragoolia, Quobba, Wahroonga, Warroora, Wooramel, Yalbalgo and Yaringa are known to graze sheep.
- (b) Of the stations listed in a), Callagiddy, Cooralya, Edagee, Gnaraloo, Manberry, Quobba, Wooramel and Yaringa are known to graze Dorper, Damara or other forms of South African derived composite breed of sheep.
- (c) Unmanaged goats occur throughout the Gascoyne and are likely on all of the stations you identify, and all leases undertake measures to harvest and market these goats. However, it would be incorrect to describe this activity as ‘farming’ goats. Of the stations you identify, Gnaraloo and Wooramel are known to run a managed herd of goats.
- (d)–(e) Pastoral leaseholders submit annual estimates of the number of farmed animals on their stations to the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) in an *Annual Return of Livestock and Improvements*. The Department of Lands (DoL) administers this process for the PLB.
- (f)–(h) The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) undertakes assessment of rangeland condition trend on pastoral stations and provides this assessment to the PLB. The PLB, together with DoL, collates this information and makes a determination of the compliance status of the station and whether any land management directives should be issued.

- (i) DAFWA assessed rangeland condition index as part of scheduled lease-level rangeland condition assessment. This activity ceased in 2009.
- (j)–(k) This question should be referred to the Minister for Lands.
- (l) For some years DAFWA’s Western Australian Rangeland Monitoring System (WARMS) assessments have identified a general declining trend in indicators of rangeland condition in the area where the stations you list are situated. However, WARMS assesses rangeland condition trend at a landscape level; it does not assess rangeland condition trend at the lease level. DAFWA provides this assessment of rangeland condition trend at the landscape level, to the PLB through the annual report of the Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner.
- (m) See response to (l)
- (n) The PLB, with administrative and compliance support from DoL, are the entities with primary responsibility under the *Land Administration Act 1997* for sustainable use of rangelands under pastoral lease. The Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation reports annually to the PLB on the current condition of land under pastoral lease. DAFWA also reports assessment of rangeland condition at the station level for the PLB.