

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — PEST PLANTS

878. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is it the responsibility of landowners such as Telstra, Western Power and the Water Corporation to manage pest plants, such as cotton bush, infecting the land around their utilities?
- (2) Does the Department of Agriculture and Food monitor such sites?
- (3) If yes to (2), what action is taken against land occupiers who do not report and manage infestations?
- (4) Are fines issued for noncompliance; and, if yes, how many fines were issued in 2013–14 and 2014–15?
- (5) If the department does not monitor these sites, who does?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) Yes, it is the landholder's responsibility to manage declared pests under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007.
- (2) No. However, with community and industry support, DAFWA focuses resources on identified priority regional areas and develops and implements compliance plans.
- (3) In priority areas, landholders are approached and are subjected to inspections. Compliance notices may be issued if compliance is not followed.
- (4) Fines are not currently issued. However, remedial action on noncompliant properties can be and is undertaken and costs recovered.
- (5) Refer to (2) above.