

COTTON BUSH CONTROL

21. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to question 1000 asked on 10 December 2013 regarding the cotton bush epidemic.

- (1) Given that cotton bush is a declared plant under the Biosecurity Agriculture Management Act, have any notices or fines been issued to any landowners who have failed to remove or destroy any cotton bush growing on their properties in the last three years?
- (2) If yes to (1), how many fines and/or notices have been issued?
- (3) Has the minister or the Department of Agriculture and Food issued any notices, fines or warnings of any kind to any government agency or government trading enterprise landholders in the last three years where cotton bush is known to grow?
- (4) If yes, which agencies or trading enterprises have been contacted and what action has since been taken to address the outbreak?
- (5) If no to (3), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) None under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007. The BAM act has been in full effect only since 1 May 2013, replacing the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976. Regulatory actions have been undertaken under ARRPA.
- (2) There have been 619 actions undertaken for cotton bush control compliance on private land under ARRPA since 1 January 2011. This includes 445 site inspections; 172 work agreements, non-statutory agreement for works required; and two section 50 notices, a direction notice to undertake works.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) ARRPA did not have regulatory powers relevant to government agencies or government trading agencies. The Department of Agriculture and Food is engaging other government agencies for control of cotton bush and other widespread and established weeds through a community coordinated approach. The use of regulatory processes under the BAM act will be applied across tenure through this approach.