

WEED MANAGEMENT — FUNDING

2707. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment
- (1) What percentage of weeds funding is going to agricultural weeds and what percentage is going to environmental weeds?
 - (2) How much is the total Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) weeds budget?
 - (3) On a cents per hectare basis, how much is being spent on controlling and eradicating weeds in the conservation estate (i.e. DEC conservation reserves)?
 - (4) How much funding, in dollars and as a percentage, is going to fighting environmental weeds outside the conservation estate?
 - (5) How much money is the Government giving to community groups, including Bio-security groups, natural resource management (NRM) groups and conservation groups, for the purpose of fighting environmental weeds?
 - (6) How much is being given to groups that are not eligible for NRM funding to manage weeds?
 - (7) How is the Government receiving reports from local government on its management of weeds?
 - (8) Where is information on local government weed management centrally located?
 - (9) If this information is not available, how can the Government be sure that areas vested with local governments are being managed for weed control and eradication?
 - (10) Which authorities are responsible for managing weeds on rail reserves, water reserves, road reserves and unallocated crown land?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1)-(4) The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) budget does not differentiate between expenditure on agricultural and environmental weeds. DEC's prioritisation of weed management actions is principally based on assessments involving protection of conservation assets, good neighbour relations and legal obligations. DEC's weed control budget for 2009/10 is \$2.295 million. This expenditure is localised to specific weed control operations on DEC managed lands, as well as some operations outside DEC managed lands, for example to protect threatened flora populations. Given that DAFWA manages the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 and related legislation, the Member should also refer his question to the Minister for Agriculture and Food.
- (5)-(6) The State Government launched the four-year \$6 million Environmental Community Grants program in 2009. Community groups and private landowners can apply for funding to undertake environmental work, including environmental weed control. While many projects funded in 2009/10 included weed control as part of general management and regeneration activities, projects totalling \$214,462 specifically refer to the control of environmental weeds in their project title.

The State Government recently announced \$4.9 million from the State Natural Resource Management (NRM) program to help local communities protect and improve their renewable natural resources. This program provides project funding in the areas of biodiversity conservation, biosecurity, water quality, climate change adaptation and community engagement. This year's community grant allocations also include specific funding for the control of environmental weeds to protect threatened species and areas of environmental significance.

The Environmental Community Grants Program is open to groups and individuals who may not be eligible for NRM funding.
- (7)-(9) The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) administers the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 and related legislation, including the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976. I am advised that in relation to the management of declared plants, Biosecurity Officers from DAFWA can issue control notices for declared plants on all tenures, including Local Government land. A record of those control notices is maintained by the DAFWA Field Reporting System (FRS), which is used by DAFWA officers when auditing compliance with control notices.
- (10) The responsibility for the management of weeds on reserves rests with the vested (managing) authority for those lands. Under administrative arrangements within Government, DEC has responsibility for weed control on unallocated Crown land outside of the metropolitan area and gazetted townships.