

RECOGNISED BIOSECURITY GROUPS

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

I refer to the establishment of recognised biosecurity groups.

- (1) Have any RBGs been established?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
  - (a) how many have been established and in what areas are they working;
  - (b) has any funding from the declared pest account been transferred to the RBGs; and, if so, how much?
  - (c) what criteria are each of the RBGs working to?
- (3) If no to (1), who is currently administering and enforcing the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 in relation to declared pests?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
  - (a) Five recognised biosecurity groups are established in the pastoral region of Western Australia.
  - (b) These RBGs have been operating for a number of years. Annually, they receive a similar amount. Approved funding for 2013–14 was \$2 786 112. This includes both the declared pest rate and the matching funding from state government.
  - (c) Each of the pastoral RBGs is incorporated and is working to appropriate governance standards. The functions of the RBGs are defined by their constitution. When RBGs have access to funding from the declared pest account, they are required to expend this funding only on the control of declared pests according to an operations plan and as outlined in written notification from the director general of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia.
- (3) Administration of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, better known as the BAM act, and enforcement of compliance are the responsibility of DAFWA for whether an RBG is formed.