

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY

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

- (1) Has the Department of Agriculture and Food identified any increase in Mediterranean fruit fly numbers compared with the equivalent period last year?
- (2) If yes to (1), which areas?
- (3) What action is the government taking to ensure that there is not a population surge of Mediterranean fruit fly this summer?

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister for fruit fly!

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

Thank you, Mr President; as the minister for everything, I will see if I can go over this!

- (1)–(3) Obviously, I do not know exactly what the department has done on that, but I do know that it is onto fruit fly very regularly and puts a lot of effort into the control of it. Obviously, it is important that fruit fly is brought under control, because if there is any chance of exporting a product, we need that fruit fly down. We are looking at the opportunities for getting it down as much as possible. Behind all this, of course, was the loss of fenthion, which is a chemical that is not regarded as good for people's health, and therefore, of course, its use has been restricted. The management is now much more around managing the orchards—in other words, picking the bad fruit off the ground. Management regulations exist, having passed through this house, that state what growers have to do. Growers are responding to that very well, as far as I am concerned.