

DECLARED PEST RATES

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

- (1) Is the minister considering imposing a declared pest rate in those local government areas affected by cotton bush and other declared pests?
- (2) If yes to (1), how much will the declared pest rate be?
- (3) Will the government match the rate collected?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

- (1) I am not currently considering imposition of a declared pest rate in agricultural areas affected by cotton bush or other established declared pests. To do so would require the formation of a recognised biosecurity group and for that group to request that the minister impose the rate for funding to implement an approved operations plan. At this stage, no RBGs have been formed in agricultural areas. However, the development of some is well advanced.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) When the government imposes a declared pest rate for the approved operations of an RBG, funding is matched by state government.
- (4) Not applicable.