

COTTON BUSH CONTROL

745. Hon Darren West to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) actively monitoring the spread of cotton bush in Western Australia?
- (2) If yes to (1):
  - (a) how is DAFWA collecting and mapping this data;
  - (b) is the data accessible to the public; and
  - (c) will the Minister table any of the data that has been collected to date?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

- (1) Yes. The Department and Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) records the presence of declared plants and animals during property visits by Biosecurity Officers. This provides a record of the presence/absence, and affected areas and density, of all declared pests, including cotton bush.
- (2)
  - (a) DAFWA collects the property records of declared pests after inspection by Biosecurity Officers. Spatial information can then be mapped.
  - (b) Individual property information about cotton bush infestations is not available to the public due to privacy considerations for landholders. DAFWA is preparing a Cotton Bush Response Plan that will contain local and regional-scale information about the spread of cotton bush.
  - (c) The Cotton Bush Response Plan will be tabled when it is finalised by DAFWA.
- (3) Not applicable.