

CARNABY'S BLACK COCKATOOS — HOPETOUN DEATHS

2872. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment

- (1) Has the Minister investigated the causes of death of more than one hundred endangered Carnaby's black cockatoos near Hopetoun in early January 2010; and
  - (a) if not, why not;
  - (b) if yes, what were the findings of this investigation; and
  - (c) if yes, will the report of this investigation be made available to the general public; and
    - (A) if not, why not; and
    - (B) if yes, when will this occur?
- (2) Is the Minister able to say what caused the death of such a large number of these endangered birds?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1)
  - (a) Field investigations were carried out by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) whilst the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Chemistry Centre of Western Australia carried out pathology examinations and analysis of tissue samples for organochlorides and organophosphates.
  - (b) The pathology and tissue sample results support the field observations that heat stress leading to multi-organ failure was the most likely cause of death of the cockatoos.
  - (c) The test results are available on DEC's website.  
(A)-(B) Not applicable.
- (2) As advised in my answer to (b), multi organ failure as a result of heat stress was the most likely cause of death of the birds. DEC field staff working around Hopetoun on the day the birds died observed that ambient air temperatures rose from 34°C to 47°C over an approximate half hour period.