

WILD DOGS — STATE BARRIER FENCE

1270. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is the state barrier fence complete from Zuytdorp Cliffs, north of Kalbarri, to the south coast?
- (2) If no (1), which sections remain open?
- (3) Are there any plans to close the sections in (2); and, if so, when will they be closed and how will these sections be funded?
- (4) How many doggers are working along this fence?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The state barrier fence currently terminates 25 kilometres east of Ravensthorpe. There is no barrier fence for part of the Shire of Ravensthorpe and all of the Shire of Esperance.
- (3) Yes. The Esperance extension to the state barrier fence is proposed. This will extend from the current termination point, aligning with property boundaries adjacent to the pastoral zone for the Shires of Ravensthorpe and Esperance. Processes for approval of the proposed extension are well advanced. Approval is required to consider environmental impact, cultural and heritage values. Although difficult to determine, it is expected that these processes will be complete within 12 months. Some funding for the proposed extension has been allocated from the royalties for regions funding initiative. This includes the costs of approval processes and fencing materials. Full funding sources for the extension are not finalised.
- (4) There are currently 22 licensed pest management technicians—better known as doggers—employed through biosecurity groups for wild dog control in Western Australia. It is estimated that at various times, four to five of these contractors would be using the state barrier fence to assist their role in controlling wild dogs.