

BIOSECURITY — CSIRO REPORT

1347. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I thank you, Madam Deputy President, and I commend you on the way that you have presided over your inaugural question time.

I refer to the CSIRO report, “Australia’s Biosecurity Future: Preparing for future biological challenges”, released on 24 November.

- (1) Has the minister read the report or its executive summary?
- (2) What is the minister’s response to the report?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) I have read quite a few CSIRO reports on biosecurity. I have been through the front of the report and I met with my committee only today on biosecurity. Biosecurity is an enlarging expanse because it protects our biodiversity. We are now looking at a wider realm of biosecurity for the state and having a strategy for that. The Department of Agriculture and Food has now a strategy for biosecurity. That, I believe, is very important because if there is a disaster or something happens, there is always the question: who is the first one in the firing line for making things happen? That is something that we have never had before in this state. It is therefore quite important that we have a strategy in place that has now just come out the other day from my department and that I have seen only in the last couple of days.