

DRAFT STATE BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

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

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 443.

- (1) Given local governments and other stakeholders were asked to contribute to a survey on biosecurity, which informed the draft strategy, why were they not sent a copy of the final draft for their further comment?
- (2) Is the minister confident that all relevant stakeholders are aware that the draft strategy actually exists?
- (3) Will the minister request the department to seek additional input from all relevant stakeholders given the poor promotion of this document?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) All Western Australians, including local governments, will have had a four-month period to respond to the draft strategy. It has been promoted in various ways from 4 December 2014 and is available for feedback until 15 May 2015.
- (2) Yes. The draft strategy is still available for comment. The opportunity to comment on the strategy has been made public by three media releases, promotion at the biosecurity forum in December 2014, numerous emails to established stakeholders through the four departments, use of social media, and use of a new online engagement site—engage.agric.wa.gov.au—since February 2015.
- (3) No. However, I am advised that the Department of Agriculture and Food will consider an appropriate input mechanism for local government responses, regardless of the public submission date.