

WILD DOGS — VERMIN CELL — MURCHISON

**261. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the Murchison region vermin cell, a 1 400-kilometre fence containing 52 pastoral leases and six Department of Parks and Wildlife-owned properties. The cell has been constructed to minimise the threat of wild dogs attacking livestock, a threat estimated to cost the region upwards of \$8.7 million annually.

Will the minister commit to providing the funding required to construct the remaining 326 kilometres of fencing needed to fully enclose the cell?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

Madam President —

**Hon Peter Collier** interjected.

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN:** I am really sorry; I do not know how many times I need to apologise to the Leader of the Opposition for presuming that he had some influence in the last government. I apologise.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The minister is about to provide an answer to the question.

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN:** I thank the member for some notice of the question.

The “Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan” commits \$1.5 million of state funds available for co-funded cell fencing through a competitive process. In addition, for two years we have a matching sum from the commonwealth government. These funds will be allocated through a competitive process. At my request, the WA Wild Dog Alliance has unanimously confirmed that the Murchison cell fence will be eligible for funds through this competitive process. The WA Wild Dog Alliance will administer and assess cell fence proposals through this process. The Murchison Regional Vermin Council is invited to develop a proposal to obtain funds through this allocation.