

ANIMAL WELFARE RISK ASSESSMENT — PASTORAL LEASES

571. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the report in *The West Australian* online of Monday, 3 June 2019, titled “Pastoralists under scrutiny over cattle welfare”.

- (1) What is the total cost of conducting this animal welfare risk assessment of all Western Australian pastoral leases?
- (2) Will pastoral leaseholders incur any of the costs associated with the assessment process?
- (3) Will the properties assessed as high risk be financially responsible for the required improvements?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) The cost of conducting this risk assessment has not been calculated but the work is being conducted internally within the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- (2) Pastoral leaseholders will not incur any of the costs associated with this assessment process.
- (3) The animal welfare risk assessment is primarily a desktop exercise that involves the scrutiny of known data points, including rainfall data, history and experience of management and management of stock numbers, to inform a risk profile for a pastoral lease. Potential future costs associated with infrastructure improvements remain the responsibility of the leaseholder.