

WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUMS — GELORUP CORRIDOR

141. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the clearing of the Gelorup Corridor for the Bunbury Outer Ring Road southern section due to recommence in March and the associated ministerial statement 1 191. I also refer to the deaths of at least four critically endangered western ringtail possums wearing tracking collars that occurred during clearing in 2022.

- (1) Has the minister relayed any concerns about the possums' welfare to the federal minister for environment at any time since clearing started; and, if yes, when?
- (2) Given the deaths, have any changes been made to the fauna management plan to improve possum and wildlife safety since the last clearing phase?
- (3) If no to (2), what assurances does the minister have that the welfare outcomes for possums will be better in this second clearing phase?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment I provide the following answer.

- (1) No.
- (2)–(3) The approved construction fauna management plan required by condition 5-2 of ministerial statement 1 191 has a provision for review prior to the commencement of clearing in 2023. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has not yet received an amended construction fauna management plan from Main Roads WA.

Main Roads WA has advised that the construction fauna management plan has been reviewed. Practices on the project have been enhanced to further protect western ringtail possums within the area. These are in addition to current measures approved through environment management plans.