

AGRICULTURE — DECLARED WEEDS

378. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the answer provided to question without notice 80 relating to the management of declared weeds on government lands.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has given up on actively controlling cotton bush and blackberry on government-controlled lands?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that private landholders are still expected to control cotton bush and blackberry on their lands?
- (3) Can the minister explain why there is a double standard in the control of cotton bush and blackberry?
- (4) Noting that weeds do not stop at fences, what advice does the minister have for private landholders whose properties are next to government-controlled lands with cotton bush and blackberry infestations, who struggle to prevent the spread to their properties?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Narrow-leaf cotton bush and blackberry are category 3 weeds that are classified as being widespread and established in Western Australia. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development does not actively monitor the presence or activities for category 3 declared weeds on any land.
- (2) All landholders have responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 to control declared pest species on their land. The BAM act prescribes numerous control measures to be used for declared pests.
- (3) I reject the premise of the question.
- (4) All landholders have responsibilities under the BAM act to control declared pest species on their land. I encourage landholders to contact their local recognised biosecurity group that may assist landholder efforts to manage declared pests and weeds.