

WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUMS — GELORUP CORRIDOR

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

I refer to the clearing of the Gelorup Corridor that was due to resume on 1 March 2023. I refer also to the 10 of 11 identified western ringtail possums that did not passively relocate and had to be physically removed during the last round of clearing.

- (1) Has an updated fauna management plan and vegetation offset strategy been received and accepted by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation?
 - (a) If yes, on what date were they accepted; and
 - (b) if not, why not?
- (2) Are artificial dreys and watering stations in place in adjacent areas, and on what date were they installed?
- (3) What improvements have been made to the FMP to ensure no further western ringtail possum deaths occur?
- (4) What changes have been made to improve the success rate of passive relocation?

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. An updated fauna management plan has not been received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. 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. The offsets management plan required by ministerial statement 1 191 has been submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for review. The department is currently reviewing the adequacy of the offsets management plan in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The offsets management plan covers the entire proposal. Once approved, the proponent is required to make the offsets management plan publicly available.
- (2)–(4) These questions should be directed to Main Roads WA.