

ENVIRONMENT — PILBARA REGION BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

1144. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Pilbara Region Biological Survey (2002–2013), which according to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' website, cost \$14.15m (\$12.4 State funds, \$1.5m Commonwealth funding and \$250,000 from industry) and sampled the diversity of plant and animal life across 800 sites across the region but unlike the fauna components of the Survey, the native plants (excluding weeds) aspects of the project has failed to be fully written up, including being published as scientific peer-reviewed papers or in a scientific journal, and I ask:

- (a) what was the total cost of the botanical aspects (terrestrial and wetland plants) of the Pilbara Region Biological Survey project;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) how many people were involved the botanical aspect of the survey;
- (d) if no to (c), why not;
- (e) why have the botanical aspects of the project—terrestrial and wetland plants (excluding weeds) not been fully written-up, similar to the fauna aspects of vertebrate and invertebrate animals where data was analysed, and made public;
- (f) if no to (e), why not;
- (g) why have no scientific peer-reviewed papers, similar to the fauna aspects of the project, been published on terrestrial flora (excluding weeds) from the survey;
- (h) if peer-reviewed papers of terrestrial flora (excluding weeds) have been published, can you provide a copy of the paper(s);
- (i) if no to (h), why not;
- (j) why have no scientific peer-reviewed papers, similar to the fauna aspects of the project, been published for wetland flora (excluding weeds);
- (k) if peer-reviewed papers of wetland flora (excluding weeds) have been published, can you provide a copy of the paper(s);
- (l) if no to (k), why not;
- (m) how many new listings of ecological communities—threatened and priority—have resulted from the new information or knowledge from the Pilbara Region Biological Survey;
- (n) can you provide a description of the new ecological communities listed as threatened and priority, respectively, for the Pilbara Bio-region since 2013;
- (o) if no to (n), why not;
- (p) how many amendments to listings of ecological communities—threatened and priority—have resulted from the new information or knowledge from the Pilbara Region Biological Survey;
- (q) can you provide a description of new taxa listed as threatened and priority ecological communities, respectively, for the Pilbara Bioregion since 2013;
- (r) if no to (q), why not;
- (s) how many new listings of taxa threatened and priority, respectively, have resulted from the new information or knowledge from the Pilbara Region Biological Survey;
- (t) can you provide a description of new ecological communities listed as threatened and priority, respectively, for the Pilbara Bioregion since 2013;
- (u) if no to (t), why not;
- (v) how many amendments to listings of taxa threatened and priority, respectively, have resulted from the new information or knowledge from the Pilbara Region Biological Survey;
- (w) can you provide a description of new taxa listed as threatened and priority, respectively, for the Pilbara Bioregion since 2013; and
- (x) if no to (x), why not?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

- (a) Costs for the field component for the botanical aspects of the Pilbara Region Biological Survey were \$2,338,641.
- (b) N/A

- (c) 34 staff and external collaborators.
- (d) N/A
- (e) Five peer reviewed papers on wetland plants have been published. Terrestrial plant specimens have been lodged with the Western Australian Herbarium and are publicly available, so this information is accessible to inform decision making.
- (f) N/A
- (g) There were a large number of flora specimens collected that took a long time to identify and curate. Terrestrial flora specimens have been lodged with the Western Australian Herbarium and are publicly available, so this information is accessible to inform decision making.
- (h) N/A
- (i) N/A
- (j) Two scientific peer-reviewed papers have been published on the wetland flora of the Pilbara and three peer-reviewed papers have been published on new species identified from the survey data and specimens.
- (k) Yes. [See tabled papers 2017.]
- (l) N/A
- (m) 13 new priority ecological communities have been informed by knowledge gained from the Pilbara Region Survey.
- (n) Yes. [See tabled paper 2017.]
- (o) N/A
- (p) The description of one priority ecological community has been amended as a result new information or knowledge from the Pilbara Region Survey—Roebourne Plains coastal grasslands with gilgai microrelief on cracking clays (Roebourne Plains gilgai grasslands).
- (q) Yes, descriptions of priority ecological communities are provided in (n).
- (r) N/A
- (s) One new listing of Threatened and 62 priority flora species have been listed in the DBCA Pilbara Region since 1 January 2013.
- (t) Please refer to (n)
- (u) N/A
- (v) None.
- (w) Yes. [See tabled paper 2017.]
- (x) N/A