

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Tuesday, 11 August 2015

3315. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to question on notice No. 3021, asked in the Legislative Council on 5 May 2015 by Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for Lands regarding pastoral leases and feral goats, and ask:

- (a) will the Minister provide a detailed explanation of how the department will control and/or remove feral animals, including goats on unallocated Crown Land from 1 July 2015; and
(b) if no to (a), why not?

Answer

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (a) Yes.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife manages pest animals, including feral goats, on unallocated Crown land, unmanaged reserves and other department-managed lands, in order to minimise their impact on the State's natural environment and native wildlife. A range of control measures are employed to manage pest animals across the State, including aerial and ground shooting using authorised and trained Department staff and contractors. Where appropriate, the opportunity exists for recreational hunting groups to partner with Parks and Wildlife to support managed pest animal control programs.

As part of Western Shield, the Government's flagship wildlife conservation program, one million baits are laid annually across more than three million hectares of department-managed land, from as far north as the Pilbara, throughout the south-west forest regions, to areas east of Esperance.

Parks and Wildlife works with adjacent pastoral lease holders to support pest animal control programs across tenure, including feral goat control, to minimise the impact on agricultural productivity.

Parks and Wildlife cooperates with Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBG) in the rangelands to implement landscape-wide pest animal control programs, including feral goat control, through financial and in-kind support or coordinating activities between Department-managed and RBG-managed control programs.

- (b) Not applicable.

