

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C711

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 12 October 2017

Hon Robin Chappie MLC to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Yule River Bush meeting of 21/09/2017, the concern of traditional owners in the region on availability of kangaroos and the answers to QWON 1313 asked of the Minister for Environment on Tuesday, 15 November 2016 and ask:

- (1) Given Aboriginal people have expressed serious concerns about the availability of Kangaroos in the Pilbara, will the Minister order an urgent review of the take quotas for professional kangaroo harvesters?
- (2) If no, why not?
- (3) If yes, when?
- (4) Will the Minister suspend the current kangaroo harvesting licences in the Pilbara region until there has been a review of the sustainability of harvesting quotas?
- (5) If no, why not?
- (6) If yes, when?

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No
- (2) Under the Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2014-2018, aerial surveys are undertaken over the range of the kangaroo population subject to commercial harvesting in Western Australia. Kangaroo population estimates from these surveys are used to determine conservative harvest quotas which are endorsed by the Commonwealth Government. The 2016 aerial survey undertaken in the Northern Monitoring Zone, which incorporates the Pilbara Management Area, indicated that kangaroo numbers have increased over the past five years.

There are three shooters currently licenced to operate commercially in the Pilbara Management Area, and only one has been active recently, taking 64 animals from the Pilbara Management Area this calendar year. It is considered unlikely that professional shooters operating for commercial purposes are operating unsustainably, and that the industry is causing a decline in local access to kangaroos for traditional food. However, as part of standard processes, harvest quotas will be assessed in 2018 in the lead up to a new commercial harvest management plan that will be implemented from 2019.

There may also be perceived declines in local areas due to environmental variables such as the good seasons (of relatively high rainfall) experienced in the Pilbara, which would result in greater dispersal of kangaroos across the region.

(3) Not applicable

(4) No

(5) Refer to part (2).

(6) Not applicable



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES