

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C003

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

Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Hon Robln Chapple MLC to the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the announcement by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service on ABC Broome on 6 February 2018, that the cane toads will no longer be classified as a pest to the North of the Tropic of Capricorn, and ask:

1. Did the Minister put out a press release announcing this decision?
2. If no to (1), why not?
3. Was the Minister aware that this statement was to be made on the ABC on 6 February 2018?
4. If no to (2), why not?
5. Why has the government given up on defending the Kimberley and Pilbara from the advance and expansion of the cane toads?
6. Given that the cane toad is listed as a key threatening process under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in all states and all areas, will the Minister reinstate the status of a Cane Toads as being one of a classified pest in the whole of the State of Western Australia?
7. If no to (6), why not?

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

1. No
2. The decision to reclassify was made by the Minister for Agriculture and Food
3. No
4. Not applicable
5. There has been no change to the implementation of the State's cane toad strategy and the Government continues to support the strategy. The focus of the strategy is on mitigating the impact of cane toads on native fauna and preventing the establishment of satellite populations ahead of the frontline and on islands, particularly in the Kimberley.

Work includes ongoing education on cane toads and an extensive program throughout the State to deliver key messages, including 'check your load for a cane toad'. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) supports a 24-hour cane toad hotline to report hitchhiker cane toads and for native frog identification. An example of active on-

ground mitigation work includes taste aversion training for threatened northern quolls and the delivery of teacher toads to reptile predators, such as yellow spotted goannas. The Government continues to support ongoing research that investigates strategies to reduce breeding success and/or mitigate cane toad movement.

Parts 6 and 7 should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture and Food.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES