

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 19 November 2019

C1443. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the upper catchment area of the De Grey, especially the sub-regionally important wetlands around Carawine Gorge and Skull Springs, and I ask:

1. Has the Minister been advised of any proposal seeking to pasture cattle at the aforementioned sites?
2. Is the Minister aware that the owner of Balfour Downs Station intends to move cattle to Skull Springs and Running Waters?
3. If no to (2), why not?
4. Given that livestock are an identified threat to these wetlands, does the Minister consider it appropriate that these sites are made available for pasture?

Answer

1. No.
2. No.
3. No agistment proposal has been submitted to the Pastoral Lands Board or the Minister for Lands.
4. Such decisions would be the subject of consideration by the Minister for Lands or the Pastoral Lands Board, dependent on tenure type.

The region around Carawine Gorge falls within the boundary of Warrawagine Station and therefore falls under provisions of the *Land Administration Act 1997* which provides that the pastoral lessee "must use methods of best pastoral and environmental management practice ... for the management of stock and for the management, conservation and regeneration of pasture for grazing."

It is the responsibility of the Pastoral Lands Board to ensure that pastoral lessees meet their requirements in this regard. It currently achieves this through an on-ground inspection regime. Earlier this month the McGowan Government announced a pastoral lands reform package with a focus on a much enhanced compliance and monitoring regime. Enhanced land condition monitoring will deliver increased knowledge of the pastoral estate and support the ecological sustainability of the rangelands.

On unallocated Crown land, agistment proposals need authorisation from the Minister for Lands, who would consult with other State agencies to ensure that heritage, environmental and other applicable legislation is satisfied. If and when

these requirements are completed, the Minister for Lands may then grant a lease or licence to the applicant, including any conditions required to manage sensitive environmental areas. If a lease or licence is granted, DPLH's compliance function will be responsible for ensuring that the proponent meets these requirements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'e' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves downwards at the end.