



Speech by

Hon. S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard 11 December 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1080 Poison

Hon. S. ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines) (10.08 a.m.), by leave: Last week the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals—NRA—announced it was conducting a review into the future of the poison 1080. The Department of Natural Resources will support the review. However, we will also argue strongly for the state's continued use of 1080 for the control of pest animals like wild dogs and feral pigs.

The poison 1080 is an important management tool for rural Queenslanders and has proven to be a very effective and target-specific tool in the control of wild animal populations. Banning use of 1080 without an equally effective predator-control poison would have only negative impacts for Queensland. Land-holders know the importance of this chemical in controlling the damage to their properties, and my department will continue to assist land-holders and local government in coordinating baiting programs. My department will make a submission to the NRA to reinforce this support and reflect the interests of concerned land-holders, who stand to lose thousands of animals if 1080 cannot be used to minimise damage to livestock.

My department is also taking proactive steps to keep 1080 as an important and effective tool for the control of animal pests. Natural Resources and Mines and the Rural Lands Protection Board recently established a 1080 management committee in response to the growing number of increasingly complex issues associated with the long-term availability and use of 1080 as a pest animal management tool in Queensland.

The committee is made up of representatives from the Wildlife Preservation Society, the Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Health, local government and environmental representatives, and will report to my Rural Lands Protection Board. Natural Resources and Mines also intends to establish an internal working group to address the array of issues identified by the committee, carry out investigations and implement programs that deal with high-priority issues.

Stringent guidelines are already in place to control usage of 1080 for pest animal control. Natural Resources and Mines' baiting techniques are consistent with best practice and care is taken to minimise impacts on non-target species. Natural Resources and Mines is the custodian of the state's 1080 stocks and controls the supply through appropriately licensed operators, who are trained by the department and authorised through Queensland Health.

Australia's native mammals, birds and reptiles generally have a higher tolerance to 1080 than feral animals because 1080 is a naturally occurring poison found in some native plants. The loss or severe restriction of 1080 would seriously affect the department's ability to deliver pest and animal control services as well as have a negative impact on the ability of land-holders and local authorities to control pest animals. That is why Queensland will argue for the continued use of 1080 as an important and effective tool for the control of pest animals.
