

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 737

asked on Tuesday, 24 May 2005

MS BARRY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION

What is the impact of feral cats on Queensland's natural resources and what action has been taken to address this problem?

ANSWER:

Feral cats have a significant impact on Queensland's natural resources. The impact is predominantly environmental as feral cats feed on small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. Also, feral cats have contributed to the extinction or significant local reduction of several native mammals and birds. The impact has recently been estimated at \$146 million dollars annually across Australia.

In Queensland, feral cats have been declared a Class 2 pest animal under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and *Regulation 2003*. This means all landowners have an obligation to keep their land free of pests. The management of feral cats is also required to be included in the pest management plans for local government areas and directly managed State lands.

My Department promotes awareness of feral cat impacts and provides information that can be viewed on my Department's website. Feral cats are considered to be a pest of national significance. Queensland is leading the development of the Australian Pest Animal Strategy that is intended to better focus the nation's efforts in pest animal management. In conjunction with this strategy, Queensland is working with other states and the newly established Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre on the development of new pest animal toxins and control programs. It is anticipated that these programs will contribute to better feral cat management in Australia.