

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 836

asked on Thursday, 26 May 2005

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

QUESTION:

What support does the Department of Natural Resources and Mines provide local government for improved pest management across Queensland?

ANSWER:

The close relationship between my Department and local government is characterised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides for improved consistency in the implementation of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. The MOU provides a clear statement of the roles and responsibilities of local governments and my Department, and commitment to the MOU will be maintained by my Department.

Local Government has access to awareness materials and best practice manuals prepared by my Department for high priority pests in Queensland. They address the need to increase awareness and increase skills in pest management.

My Department also continues to develop new or improved pest management practices for use by landholders, local governments and community groups. This research is critical to the effective management of pests in Queensland.

A total of \$11.3 million was included in my Department's budget in 2004-05 for the provision of pest management services in Queensland. Many of these services support local governments. My Department also manages \$4 million in annual payments from local governments in the provision of several of these services.

The responses to the new Class 1 pest incursions of Red-eared Slider Turtles and Crazy Ants are led by my Department but local governments also play a critical role. Eradication programs have also been initiated, maintained or enhanced for Madras Thorn, Limnocharis, Koster's curse, Siam Weed, *Mimosa pigra*, Hygrophyla, Alligator Weed, Senegal Tea Plant, Mikania vine, Miconia, Bitou Bush, Badhara Bush, Honey Locust and Chilean Needle Grass.

The maintenance of the Wild Dog Barrier Fence to stop the movement of wild dogs into the local government areas of south-west Queensland is an ongoing

role for my Department. The government provides 50% of the budget, an amount of about \$0.8 million in 2004-05.

Training opportunities continue to be provided to local governments on a variety of issues that include compliance and investigation, pest animal trapping, mapping and pest data capture.

A pest information system, PestInfo, developed by my Department was made available at no cost to local governments throughout Queensland.

As part of the Local Government Area Pest Management Plans, officers are available for technical and operational advice to local government during preparation and implementation of the Plan. The relationship between State and Local Government is strong and we will continue to work together to maximise returns from our joint investment in pest management.