

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1322

asked on Tuesday, 31 October 2006

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MR HOPPER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER (MR SHINE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to weed and pest management—

Will he provide a breakdown by region (reported separately) of (a) pest management expenditure for 2005-06, (b) estimated pest management expenditure for 2006-07, (c) weed management expenditure for 2005-06 and (d) estimated weed management expenditure for 2006-07?

ANSWER:

Funding for pest and weed management fluctuates, due to changing needs and unanticipated yet necessary expenditure on events such as plagues, incursion responses, flood damage to barrier fences and special initiatives that are undertaken periodically.

It is not justified to compare actual expenditure from last year with projected expenditure for this financial year because it is not possible to predict when major infestations or plagues, for example, may occur.

In other words, we are unable to predict what outbreaks may occur in the remainder of this financial year, and therefore, given we are less than half way through 2006-2007, what the final level of expenditure will be for the year.

Figures are provided below for expenditure of funds by the Department of Natural Resources and Water and exclude expenditure on Unallocated State Land. \$3,000,000 is budgeted in 2006-07 for the first year of *Reclaim the Bush – a Pest Offensive* as part of Blueprint for the Bush.

Expenditure details below are broken down into four Regions as well as expenditure on Research, State-wide Support and the Blueprint for the Bush to give total expenditure for the State. Research funding in 2006-07 has increased focus towards pest animal work, particularly on chemical analysis for wild dog and feral pig control.

In addition to the figures provided below, \$700,651 of special funds were spent in 2005-06, and \$651,071 are budgeted in 2006-07 for research on cane toads, control of mimosa pigra and pest management compliance.

Pest Animal Management Expenditure:

<b>Business Group</b>	<b>2005 – 2006 Expenditure</b>	<b>2006 – 2007 Budget</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Central West	304,635	274,737
South East	395,942	309,199
North	444,076	511,608
South West	1,141,644	1,142,988
Research	1,470,602	2,106,576
Statewide Support	1,294,640	1,104,765
Reclaim the Bush – A Pest Offensive	-	1,000,000**
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,051,539</b>	<b>6,449,873</b>

Weed Management Expenditure:

<b>Business Group</b>	<b>2005 – 2006 Expenditure</b>	<b>2006 – 2007 Budget</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Central West	456,952	412,105
South East	593,913	463,799
North	666,115	767,412
South West	339,873	319,636
Research	2,365,358	1,588,667
Statewide Support	1,941,960	1,657,147
Reclaim the Bush – A Pest Offensive	-	2,000,000**
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,364,171</b>	<b>7,208,766</b>

(\*\* Based on estimated break-up of funding. Allocations are currently being finalised through assessment of project applications).