

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 392

asked on Tuesday, 28 March 2006

MR FOLEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND WATER (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a number of constituents who have lost significant numbers of stock to wild dogs, the latest tragic episodes being a further three alpacas destroyed by two large feral dogs. It is now over five months since the Department of Natural Resources was alerted to the problem in this area which is becoming highly populated and only semi-rural, with a large number of small acre residential sites and as the latest attack was within a few metres of where people were sleeping, and was carried out by wild dogs of Doberman size and build which would be quite capable of taking down an adult, let alone younger people and in light of the fact that a child could be the next victim of these wild dogs—

- (1) What has he done since he was notified about this problem?
- (2) What are his future plans to address this dangerous situation?

ANSWER:

- (1) An officer of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, along with officers of Queensland Health and the Tiara Shire Council, visited the area in November 2005. They provided a series of suggested actions and control options for local landholders to consider so the damage caused by wild dog attacks could be reduced. Given the close proximity of the houses in the area, the use of poisons was not considered an appropriate option to manage the wild dog problem.
- (2) Officers of the Department are continuing to provide advice on control options and will provide assistance with baiting where it is seen to be a safe and effective method of control and when it is sought by landholders. There are several options that landholders can adopt to reduce any predation including the erection of secure fencing, the use of guard animals such as Maremma guard dogs, trapping and the locking of animals away at night. Any broadscale control of wild dogs in these areas will require a concerted and agreed community program. Officers of the Department are available to assist in developing such programs but ultimately it will be up to individual landholders to contribute to or allow their fellow landholders to conduct such programs on or near their properties. Cooperation between landholders on the implementation of an agreed local strategy is also very important.