

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 599

asked on Friday, 21 April 2006

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise if any red-eared slider turtles have been found in the Kallangur electorate; if so, what steps has his Department taken to ensure they do not increase in numbers?

ANSWER:

Red-eared Slider turtles have recently been found in and around the Kallangur electorate. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water has established a taskforce across a number of state government agencies to coordinate an eradication program.

The Department is working to eradicate a breeding population of Red-eared Slider Turtles in the Mango Hill area. As part of this program, members of the public in the Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shires were asked to report sightings of Red-eared Slider Turtles. A large female Red-eared Slider Turtle was handed in at Burpengary in 2005. Officers of the Department are working closely with the Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shire Councils to remove any additional turtles from dams and ponds.

A special trained detection dog is also being used to search for Red-eared Slider Turtle nests, eggs and hatchlings. A large area has been searched with traps and the detection dog and two additional Red-eared Sliders Turtles have been found at a single locality at Burpengary, which was within the Kallangur electorate. There has been limited breeding in this area and officers will continue trapping and monitoring turtles in the area.

It is illegal to keep these animals in Queensland and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water has been urging owners through the media to hand-in Red-eared Slider Turtles and some have been received. A Red-eared Slider Turtle was recently handed in to a veterinary surgeon in north Brisbane. The Department will be contacting vets in the area and asking them to surrender any Red-eared Sliders they receive.