

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 822**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 24 May 2006**

**MR FRASER** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

What is the progress in the treatment of the fire ant infestation detected at Toowong within my electorate of Mount Coot-tha?

**ANSWER:**

Progress in the treatment of the fire ant infestation at Toowong has been excellent. The program at Toowong followed standard operating procedures that are implemented following a detection of fire ant infestation.

The first step was to destroy the infestation through direct nest injection. This was followed by a number of surveys on the property to verify that the infestation was destroyed. These processes have been completed.

The second step was to define the size of the infestation through surveillance. Approximately 1 256 land parcels that covered 48 ha were surveyed and it was established through this surveillance that the infestation was confined to a single nest on a single land parcel.

The third step was to apply consecutive bait treatments across a defined treatment zone. The treatment zone for Toowong is based on a 500 m radius out from the infested land parcel. This treatment zone has now received its scheduled two rounds of bait treatment this financial year. There will be three further bait treatments applied to this zone in 2006/07.

The fourth step was to verify that the infestation was contained by the treatment zone through surveillance of a further area around the treatment zone. This surveillance zone that encompasses approximately 4 000 land parcels and covers 129 ha has been surveyed without further infestation being detected. This zone will be surveyed again in 2006/07.

Finally, a community engagement program was implemented to raise awareness among the public. This is a very important part of the program because it not only covers the areas that are within the treatment and surveillance zones, it also encompasses the surrounding areas. To date, this program has included a public meeting for affected residents, a direct mail out of information and sample kits to all residents in the surveillance and treatment zones, a find the fire ant day held at Perrin Park in Toowong, and further promotions at local shopping centres. A number of ants have been submitted to the Fire Ant Control Centre for identification as a result of these programs with none being found to be fire ant.

At this stage the infestation at Toowong has been destroyed and I am confident that the remaining program of work will confirm that the Toowong eradication response has been successful.