

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 254

asked on Thursday, 22 February 2007

MR HINCHLIFFE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the detection of *Anoplolepis Gracilipes*, or the African yellow crazy ant (YCA), at Kedron in the electorate of Stafford—

Will he advise northside residents (a) what they need to look for to detect crazy ants on their own property, (b) how to seek more information or report suspect insects and (c) what the Queensland Government is doing to address the presence of this destructive invasive pest?

ANSWER:

- (a) Residents of infested Kedron properties have been informed via two mailouts. The initial mail out in November 2006 included: a letter explaining the current and ongoing situation regarding inspection, treatment and on-going monitoring of Yellow Crazy Ants; an Emergency Quarantine Notice explaining expected requirements and responsibilities to comply with the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*; and a Yellow Crazy Ant warning brochure featuring information and colour photographs for identification and reporting purposes. A second letter of explanation and Emergency Quarantine Notice was mailed to affected residents in January 2007.
- (b) The Department has a call centre (Tel. 1800 999 367) and website (www.nrw.qld.gov.au/pests) providing information to the public on yellow crazy ants. The website includes background information about Yellow Crazy Ants and links to download further information materials. The public can download the warning brochure which includes features and behaviours to identify Yellow Crazy Ants and a Frequently Asked Questions document. The website and materials available for downloads include call centre telephone contact details for a member of the public to report any suspected sightings. These sightings are then checked by Departmental officers. Information is also available to the public from the Department's customer service centres.
- (c) The Queensland Government has a program for the treatment of all known infestations of Yellow Crazy Ants in Queensland, with the aim of eradication. The infestation of Yellow Crazy Ants at Kedron has been treated and the site will continue to be monitored, and treated if necessary, until the eradication of the Yellow Crazy Ants. Premises in

the infested area have been placed under Emergency Quarantine, with conditions to restrict the movement of potentially infested materials from the site.

Finally, I will also point out that this matter now falls under Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and within the portfolio of my colleague, the Honourable Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries.