

Question on Notice
No. 1379
Asked on Tuesday, 7 October 2008

QUESTION:

MR LINGARD asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara) –

As there has been a dramatic increase in the wild dog population recently which sees other wild life such as pademelons suffer drastic reduction in their numbers—

What role does the Environmental Protection Agency play in dealing decisively with the wild dog population in the National Parks in my electorate?

ANSWER:

Pest management is an important component of the overall management program implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the lands it manages across Queensland, including national parks.

The pest management priorities adopted by the EPA are to:-

- prevent the introduction or spread of any declared plant or animal;
- undertake co-operative pest control programs with neighbouring landholders, Biosecurity Queensland and local government; and
- protect natural and cultural values, including threatened species and ecosystems, by eradicating pests or significantly reducing their impacts.

Wild dog management on national parks and other protected areas involves a range of legislative obligations, including responsibilities under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The EPA has various responsibilities in managing wild dogs, which include:-

- managing wild dog populations so they are not a threat to public or staff safety, social well-being or economic livelihood; and
- observing the EPA's commitments to conserving biodiversity, which requires the maintenance of natural ecological balance and processes.

Issues such as negative impacts on stock, the ecological relationships of wild dogs on other native animals and feral pests such as foxes, pigs and cats, all contribute to the complexities associated with managing wild dogs on national parks.

Where there are demonstrated problems on or adjacent to protected areas, the EPA actively participates in fully integrated and coordinated wild dog control programs in conjunction with land holders and local government.

Regarding wild dog populations in your electorate, representatives from Biosecurity Queensland, the Scenic Rim Regional Council and the EPA attended a meeting in Beaudesert in April of this year. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the

problems and come up with solutions associated with managing wild dogs in the rural/residential areas.

Biosecurity Queensland has agreed to facilitate the establishment of a working group to deal with wild dog problems in these areas. The working group will comprise representatives from the local government areas of Gold Coast and Scenic Rim, the EPA and other large land managers as deemed necessary.