

Question on Notice
No. 619
Asked on Tuesday, 29 April 2008

QUESTION:

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

Will he provide all cull figures in national parks for vermin such as dingoes, goats and foxes undertaken on behalf of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife division of the Environmental Protection Agency?

ANSWER:

In 2007/08, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investing \$4.5 million for the control of pests and feral animals in protected areas. This includes \$0.73 million into 32 targeted projects to control pest animals in specific problem locations.

These programs are in addition to incidental pest management activities undertaken as part of normal day-to-day park management operations.

The EPA works with neighbouring landholders, Local Government and other agencies such as Biosecurity Queensland, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources and Water, as well as stakeholder groups such as AgForce and the RSPCA where relevant, to ensure that these control programs meet best practice and are effectively reducing the impact of pest animals.

Many programs extend across property boundaries since most pest species range across the landscape. The EPA also uses contract musters for pests such as goats and they are not required to report precise numbers back to the Department. Consequently it is not practical for the EPA to compile a state-wide list of every pest animal destroyed in the land parcels it manages, and if compiled, any such figure would not be accurate.

The outcomes of major programs are often reported in local regional newspapers and questions directed at specific programs are answered by the EPA with the best available information.

For example, two recent pest animal control programs in Carnarvon National Park and surrounding properties that resulted in the humane destruction of around 5,600 horses and 270 feral pigs was broadly publicised, as were the pig culling programs in the Wet Tropics, Whitsunday and on Cape York over the past three years and the Currawinya and Curtis Island feral goat programs.

If the Member for Beaudesert wishes to seek information on a specific pest program managed by the EPA, I will be happy to arrange for the Department to provide all the information it has available.