

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1731

asked on Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MR PITT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the current targeted pest and weed projects in the Mulgrave Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) has a Pest Management Program for 2009/2010 financial year which identifies a range of projects associated with the QPWS Estate. This program was developed to meet the obligations of the QPWS under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and State Government policy, and provide direction and priorities for control of feral animals and weeds within the QPWS Estate.

In the 2009/2010 financial year, a total of around \$4.5 million will be invested to manage pests on the QPWS Estate. There are a number of strategic and operational projects in place that are being implemented by the QPWS in the Cairns area. Examples are outlined below.

Strategic Projects

Innisfail Eubenangee Ecosystem Restoration – The project is being undertaken to protect the national park's diversity and ecosystem functioning by detecting, eradicating and controlling the spread of declared class 2 weeds.

Thunbergia species control – Eradication of class 1 Thunbergia spp, from Wooroonooran National Park to allow recovery of critical riparian vegetation communities.

Pig Control – A cooperative project is being undertaken with Terrain Natural Resource Management and Cairns Regional Council to reduce pig numbers across the QPWS Estate in areas of high activity.

Operational Projects

Wild dogs - cameras have been installed in critical locations to detect the presence of wild dogs at Copperlode Dam.

Feral Pigs – The QPWS continues to target the feral pig population in all areas of the protected area estate in conjunction with local authorities and landowners particularly at Kuranda and Goldsborough.

Weeds – The QPWS is undertaking projects to protect the diversity and ecosystems in the protected area estate by detecting, eradicating and controlling the spread of declared weeds including Pond Apple, Hymenachne, Miconia, Siam, Thunbergia, and Gamba Grass. The QPWS is undertaking ground surveys to monitor known populations, detect new infestations, and implement appropriate control methods.

Weed hygiene procedures have also been introduced to prevent the spread of declared weeds. The QPWS also monitors other weeds of concern in the Cairns area during survey and control operations.