

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 232
Asked on 10 March 2011

MR MCLINDON asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies (MR MULHERIN)–

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to fully funding the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board given it is a significant state bio-security issue and the unjust financial impost it currently has on local councils who are funding this board?

ANSWER:

I announced to the House on 10 March 2011 that a new entity will be established to manage both the rabbit and wild dog fences. Until the start of that entity on 1 July 2013, the funding of the current Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board will be as per the existing arrangements, with annual payments collected from the eight adjoining local governments paid into the Land Protection Fund and from there disbursed to the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board.

The Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit District delineates an area of Queensland that is protected by the rabbit fence and is essentially rabbit free. Significant economic, environmental and social benefits accrue directly and indirectly to the communities within the rabbit district.

Under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, local governments are responsible for ensuring that pests are managed within their area. Contributing to the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board so as to maintain the rabbit free status and achieve the community benefits is part of this responsibility.