

Question on Notice
No. 344
Asked on Wednesday, 23 March 2011

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR ROBERTS)—

With reference to the appointment of a contractor in July 2010 to remove feral pigs from the Lotus Glen Correctional Facility due to the massive damage being caused to surrounding farmland, and as no reduction has occurred in pig numbers coming from the facility grounds and destroying crops of neighbouring farms—

What immediate steps will the Minister take to address the failure of the current pest control strategy?

ANSWER:

In early 2010, the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre identified a feral pig problem in the area, where it appeared pigs were using the centre property as a thoroughfare, possibly due to water availability at a number of creeks on the property.

Some of the properties adjacent to the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre have sugar cane as their primary crop. Feral pigs often live in the cane and move through properties looking for food and in doing so, cause damage to crops.

In July 2010, a contractor was approved to commence an operation to remove feral pigs from the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre farm property. From July 2010 to 4 March 2011, a total of 236 pigs have been captured and removed from the property.

During the wet season, the contractor has not been able to access all parts of the centre's property. However, pigs have still been captured during this period.

At this stage, the contractor has been engaged until October 2011 as part of the centre's annual maintenance program, at which time the matter will be further reviewed.

Management at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre have had contact with some of the neighbouring properties, to ensure they are aware of the methods being utilised by the centre to assist in the reduction of feral pigs in the area.

Centre management has also had ongoing discussions with representatives from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation who have confirmed the issue of feral pigs in the area is a regional problem, and the actions taken by the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre are contributing to the reduction of pigs in the region.