

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 503

asked on Thursday, 5 June 2014

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MR HOLSWICH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, SPORT AND RACING (MR DICKSON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline steps the government is taking to manage or eradicate wild dogs, pigs and other feral animals in D'Aguilar National Park?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question.

The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing has a range of ongoing programs in place to control and limit the impacts of feral animals in and around the D'Aguilar National Park.

Detection and monitoring activities are critical to the success of control programs. In areas where feral pig or wild dog populations are thought to be growing, the department maintains and monitors sand plots and/or deploys infrared cameras for extended periods, in an effort to detect population changes or localised changes in activity. Additional monitoring is routinely carried out prior to and after control programs to gauge success.

Departmental officers participate at regional pest management meetings with local governments, neighbouring landholders and other stakeholders, such as AgForce, on a regular basis to monitor reports of sightings and impacts from feral animals.

These monitoring activities are primarily aimed at detecting changes in wild dog and feral pig presence and density, but also provide information on other pest species such as cats, foxes and deer.

The department undertakes targeted feral animal control activities, such as the cooperative wild dog baiting program currently in place in the Mount Mee area of the park. The department, working with local governments, the Brisbane City Council and other government land holders, is able to quickly respond to emerging problems arising from individual animals or wild dog packs through this program.

The department has cooperative pig control programs in place with Seqwater around the Enoggera and Gold Creek Dams, and Lake Manchester in the southern section of the park. Departmental rangers also undertake pig trapping at public access sites across the park where individual animals or populations begin to create issues. Cooperative pig trapping is also undertaken with private landholders where pig activity is impacting on neighbouring properties. For example, a cooperative pig trapping program involving Mount Glorious residents has been in place for about 15 years.

In the 2013-14 financial year, the department spent an estimated \$22,000 on feral animal management in the D'Aguilar National Park. However, costs to the department for feral animal management in the Park can vary substantially from year to year due to seasonal effects. Recent technological advances such as relatively low-cost surveillance cameras have assisted in reducing costs.

Feral animals do not recognise property boundaries, which is why the department's preferred approach is to work with neighbours and other interested parties to get the best possible feral animal control outcomes. Departmental officers will continue to work with local governments, neighbouring landholders and other stakeholders such as AgForce to foster cooperation and a landscape-based approach to feral animal control in and around the D'Aguilar National Park.