

Question on Notice

No. 1401

Asked on 17 October 2018

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the last Queensland Annual Pest Distribution Survey (APDS) conducted in 2013-14—

Will the Minister advise (a) when the Minister will conduct the next APDS and (b) will the department look at expanding the scope of this survey to make up for the 5 year delay?

ANSWER:

- (a) A pest distribution survey was conducted in 2018 and its collation is currently being finalised. It is expected that the mapping will be available externally early in 2019, after completion of verification and cross-checking with other databases.

The regional workshop for the 2018 survey that included the Gympie electorate was held at the DAF Maroochy Research Station on 22 August 2018 and was attended by weed and pest control officers with on-ground knowledge of the pests in the Gympie Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and Somerset Regional Council areas. The pests considered at that workshop included giant rat's tail grass, fireweed and prickly acacia. The list of pests included in surveys is available on the department's website.

- (b) The scope of the next survey, when undertaken, will include those pests for which a snapshot of updated information is needed, for State or regional planning purposes.

Because of the subjective nature of the group interview process, the survey lacks sensitivity to detect gradual changes in the occurrence, distribution or density of the pests. It is not recommended as the basis for on-ground pest management decisions.