

Question on Notice

No. 127

Asked on 25 February 2021

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to cattle producers in the mid west and central west who are rebuilding from droughts and flood damage and now confronted by an increasing number of grasshoppers destroying critical pastures— Will the Minister take urgent action to address this including an assurance that assistance through the Australian Plague Locust Commission extends to grasshoppers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

My department has established a Grasshopper Working Group in response to high grasshopper populations in 13 shires across central west and north west Queensland.

The Working Group also includes representatives from the Australian Plague Locust Commission and National Drought and Flood Agency.

The Working Group is coordinating the response to the current grasshopper activity to provide consistent information; ensure producers have legal access to chemical control options; and to plan actions and research to assist with prediction and management in the future.

The department has received advice that Emergency Use Permit (EUP) applications to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority seeking approval for the use of a two chemical treatments (fenitrothion and fipronil) for grasshoppers have been approved with specific conditions.

My department continues to communicate with producers to ensure they are aware of the issuing of the permits and associated conditions for use.

The Australian Plague Locust Commission continues to provide technical advice and assistance to parties involved in the current grasshopper outbreak in Queensland's Central and North West.