

Question on Notice

No. 683

Asked on 26 May 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what preparatory work the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has done in anticipation of the rodent plague escalating in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Following the mouse plagues of the 1990s and in anticipation of future reoccurrences in Queensland, Biosecurity Officers worked with the Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC) to supply the research that led to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) registration of a commercial product, zinc phosphide grain bait. This product, in its various current forms, is readily available to grain growers in Queensland to control mice.

This commercial product has been used successfully by grain growers in their normal on-going management to reduce mice damage in grain crops for the last 25 years.

The department understands that there are no problems in the supply of zinc phosphide grain baits in Queensland for managing mice outbreaks in grain crops.

Since the beginning of 2021, industry organisations have obtained emergency permits from the APVMA to allow the use of the zinc phosphide grain baits in more crops and at higher rates in Queensland in response to increased numbers of mice.

The department is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to work with producers, industry bodies and APVMA to ensure controls are available and supported.

The house mouse (*mus musculus*) is not a prohibited or restricted animal. Information on the house mouse can be found at: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/pests/invasive-animals/other/house-mouse>

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, all Queenslanders have a ‘general biosecurity obligation’ (GBO). This means that all of us have a responsibility for managing biosecurity risks. More information on GBO can be found at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-act-2014/general-biosecurity-obligation>.