

Question on Notice

No. 736

Asked on Tuesday, 24 June 2025

HON L LINARD ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) why the Queensland Government is no longer committed to join the Federal Government and all other states and territories in the National Threat Abatement Plan for Feral Cats and (b) what changes the Queensland Government proposed to the plan?

ANSWER:

- a. The Crisafulli Government remains committed to addressing the threats feral cats pose to Queensland's threatened species and natural environment.

The Commonwealth Government sought feedback during the drafting of the Threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats (TAP). The Crisafulli Government provided specific feedback and recommended changes based on environmental factors unique to Queensland, including areas of potential conflict with Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Unfortunately, the Commonwealth Government did not implement these recommendations and the Queensland Government was therefore unable to agree to jointly make the plan.

This does not affect the Crisafulli Government's commitment to practical, on-ground action. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation continues to implement programs targeting feral cats, with a strong focus on protecting Queensland's unique threatened species and biodiversity.

- b. The changes requested by the Crisafulli Government related to the:
- removal of superfluous and irrelevant content relating to wild dog/dingo management, particularly that which made recommendations about preserving or even reintroducing wild dogs/dingoes in the landscape which would have the following impacts:
 - be contrary to landowner obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*;
 - conflict with wild dog management practices; and
 - based on an objective assessment of the relevant science, provide no demonstrated benefits for the meaningful management of feral cats.
 - correction of mis-cited research; and
 - corrections to identified errors of fact.

The former Federal Environment Minister did not accept Queensland's requested changes, which prevented a joint agreement on the TAP. We remain open to further discussions with the new Federal Environment Minister to reach an outcome that aligns with Queensland's legislative requirements and government policy.