

WILD DOGS

**677. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer the minister to the inadequacy of wild dog control in the rangelands.

- (1) What changes has the Agriculture Protection Board put in place to manage the way in which it can achieve wild dog control between sheep stations, adjoining cattle stations and adjoining unallocated land, and crown land that is managed by mining companies and Aboriginal corporations?
- (2) How many doggers are currently employed by the Agriculture Protection Board?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

- (1)-(2) I thank Hon Shelley Archer for providing some notice of the question. I am not exactly sure that this answer does precisely address the question that was asked; if it does not, I invite the honourable member to rephrase the question, or speak to me about it. However, notwithstanding that, the answer is rather lengthy, so I will table the answer and seek leave for it to be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 4129.]

The following answer was incorporated —

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I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

1. The Agricultural Protection Board provides legislative and administrative support, research, advice, training and coordination to assist landholders, who are responsible for wild dog control in Western Australia, to achieve effective wild dog control. An industry review of wild dog management in Western Australia was carried out in 2004 and concluded that landholder complacency, a scaling down in the amount of ground control work carried out, and a gradual over-reliance on aerial baiting, have all contributed significantly to the progressive build-up of wild dog numbers in the rangelands. The report made a number of recommendations which focus on the need for better planning at the local level, better oversight by the local Zone Control Authority and strengthening of community ownership involving all landholders. These recommendations are being implemented at both a State and local level. At the State level a stakeholder committee, the State Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee (including representatives from industry, community and Government) has developed the Western Australian Wild Dog Management Policy to guide the development of regional plans. At the regional and local level the APB and the Department of Agriculture and Food have worked with ZCA's to develop regional wild dog management plans based on the 'nil tenure' principle. Currently private and public landholders are being encouraged to implement the regional plans through coordinating aerial and ground baiting and trapping programs, encouraging the formation of Declared Animal Groups, and training of landholders. A program for the training of professional doggers has also been developed.

2. The Agriculture Protection Board ceased employing doggers over ten years ago. Doggers are employed directly by landholders or landholder groups and the Department of Environment and Conservation. There are currently 11 doggers employed in the rangelands and another three employed in the agricultural areas.

Doggers engaged by landholder groups in the rangelands are paid for through a combination of private landholder funds and Zone Control Authority (ZCA) funds. ZCA funds consist of rates raised from leaseholders on pastoral leases, matched dollar for dollar by State Government funding.

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