

PLANTAGENET LOCATION 5897, QUARANTINE FOR VIRULENT FOOTROT

1739. Hon. M.G. House to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I refer to Plantagenet Location 5897, being placed under quarantine for virulent footrot on 25 February 2002 and ask -

- (a) why were neighbouring farmers not notified until 12 April 2002, more than six weeks later, that the property was under quarantine; and
- (b) does the Minister understand the danger and implication for the State sheep industry of such an irresponsible attitude?

Mr LOGAN replied:

- (a) The Quarantine Order number 1705 for virulent footrot was issued on 25 February 2002 for sheep on Plantagenet Location 5897. The owner of the sheep decided on the same day to destock the sheep and was issued with a permit to move sheep from the property on 1 March 2002. All the sheep in quarantine were removed to an export feedlot on 1 March 2002.

The stock inspector in charge of this case was in error by not informing the neighbours of the quarantine until 12 April 2002. However the prompt action by the owner to destock the sheep meant that the risk of infection spread to neighbours was low.
- (b) The Department of Agriculture has reported that the officer should have notified neighbours more promptly. Staff will give more timely attention to neighbour notification in future.