

FERAL PIGS — CONTROL MEASURES

1286. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to recent news articles in relation to the biosecurity threat of African swine fever and that feral pigs are a possible vector transmitting the disease.

- (1) What range of measures are being planned by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to reduce feral pig numbers on land under the department's management?
- (2) Will extra funding be allocated to any measures undertaken?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions works closely with recreational hunting and community groups and recognised biosecurity groups on feral pig control to achieve a tenure-blind approach to managing this pest species. The work undertaken by these groups complements DBCA's pig control program, which is based on an environmental triage approach that takes into consideration the potential spread of dieback, conservation values at risk and public safety.

DBCA has a longstanding collaboration with the Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group to undertake feral pig control throughout DBCA's Frankland and Donnelly districts, including between Rocky Gully and Walpole, and the Albany branch of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia assists with feral pig control in the Frankland district. DBCA is also currently working with the Shire of Manjimup to control feral pigs around the Northcliffe area.

Measures taken by DBCA to control feral pigs primarily consist of trapping and shooting, with some baiting also undertaken. A project is currently underway investigating baiting stations for feral pigs. An agreement is also in place with the Blackwood Biosecurity group for pig and other pest animal control in DBCA's Donnelly, Blackwood and Wellington districts.

- (2) DBCA will continue to conduct priority feral pig control on department-managed land within its pest animal control budget.