

WESTERN GROUND PARROT CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT —
INTEGRATED FAUNA RECOVERY PROGRAM

225. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the western ground parrot captive management project and the integrated fauna recovery program's trial feral cat baiting project.

- (1) Is it true that the contract of the conservation officer employed to oversee the western ground parrot captive management project is due to expire and will not be renewed; if this is true, why, and how will this vital work be continued?
- (2) Is it true that the funding for the conservation team running the integrated fauna recovery program which has been trialling feral cat baiting on the south coast is about to end; if this is true, why, and how will this vital work be continued?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) These are not separate projects. Rather, the integrated fauna recovery program is an extension of the western ground parrot project in recognition of the benefits to multiple threatened species of the feral predator control and habitat management components of the ground parrot project. The minister is very conscious of the critically endangered status of the western ground parrot and the importance of ensuring its conservation. The western ground parrot recovery project involves significant inputs and associated operational support from a number of Department of Environment and Conservation regional and scientific staff, as well as the employment on a contract basis of four staff dedicated to the project using a combination of DEC, grant and sponsorship funds. The project is a high priority and DEC is currently taking steps to ensure its continuity.