

RECOGNISED BIOSECURITY GROUPS

1251. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to recognised biosecurity groups under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007.

- (1) Has the process of converting wheatbelt-declared species groups to recognised biosecurity groups been completed?
- (2) If no to (1), when is the expected completion date?
- (3) In those areas of the wheatbelt that adjoin the pastoral zone, how will the operational plans of adjacent recognised biosecurity groups be co-ordinated to ensure there are no gaps in wild dog control from group to group?
- (4) If the operational plan of a local recognised biosecurity group does not control pests in grains, is it possible for wheatbelt farmers whose sole enterprise is grain growing to opt out; and, if not, why not?

Hon MARK LEWIS replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Declared species groups and other groups with an interest in declared invasive species control have the option to form as a recognised biosecurity group. Some groups have decided not to adopt this option.
- (3) Avoiding gaps is one consideration in consultation for formation of recognised biosecurity groups. Those groups that have formed have adopted both formal and informal networks to ensure coordinated control across the landscape, including between agricultural and pastoral land.
- (4) The Minister for Agriculture and Food is required to consult with landholders prior to granting recognition for a recognised biosecurity group to ensure that the proposed group is considered the most appropriate organisation for the purpose of pest control, as indicated by landholders involved. This process does not include an individual landholder opt-out provision. It should be noted that it is the responsibility of all landholders to control all declared pests on their land. This responsibility is regardless of form of production.