

ENDANGERED SPECIES — RECOVERY PLANS

439. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the reference to the “Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan” on page 712 of budget paper No 2, volume 2.

- (1) How many threatened and endangered species and communities are there presently in Western Australia?
- (2) How much funding is attached to the 72 per cent of the above species and communities with recovery plans in this budget?
- (3) What efforts are being made to capture the 28 per cent of species and communities without recovery plans?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1) There are 678 threatened species listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. There are 65 threatened ecological communities managed as environmentally sensitive areas under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (2) Recovery plans provide guidance on recovery actions to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and other organisations. In DBCA, many actions are taken across multiple species and locations—for example, feral animal control—therefore, it is not possible to identify funding allocated to the species specific activities under recovery plans.

In 2020–21, approximately \$5.7 million was expended on development and implementation of approved biodiversity management programs, including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities, as part of service 6, conserving habitats, species and ecological communities. It is anticipated that a similar level of expenditure will be incurred over the forward estimates.

- (3) Development of recovery plans is prioritised for threatened species and ecological communities when there are significant complexities in conservation planning arising from multiple significant threats, occurrence across multiple land tenures, large numbers of stakeholders and social, cultural or economic significance.

All threatened species and ecological communities, regardless of whether they have a recovery plan, are considered in conservation planning for on-ground operational activities and when advice is provided to stakeholders, including on development proposals, native vegetation clearing applications and in environmental impact assessments.