

WILD DOGS — STATE BARRIER FENCE

6335. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Child Protection representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the State Barrier Fence — upgrades and proposed extensions, and I ask —

- (1) What is the estimated cost of work underway and proposed to join the gap in the State Barrier Fence in the Yilgarn region (referred to as the ‘Yilgarn gap’ in the Department of Agriculture and Food’s Wild Dog update Issue 1, Sept 2012)?
- (2) What is the contribution of adjoining local governments and farmers towards meeting that cost?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of work underway and proposed to extend the State Barrier Fence around farmland in the Ravensthorpe and Esperance Shires from its current endpoint at Jerdacuttup to the edge of agricultural land east of Esperance (referred to as the ‘Esperance Extension’ in the Department of Agriculture and Food’s Wild Dog update Issue 1, September 2012)?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of this extension?
- (5) Should the extension be aligned on the option of ‘least constraint’, as recommended to the department in the 2012 GHD Report for State Barrier Fence Esperance Extension Scoping Study?
- (6) What is the contribution of adjoining local governments and farmers towards meeting that cost?
- (7) How many kilometres of the State Barrier Fence have been upgraded through the addition of lap wires and other changes?
- (8) How many kilometres of the fence are proposed for upgrade in the next four years?
- (9) What is the estimated cost of work underway and proposed to complete the current upgrade of the fence?
- (10) Has the Government/department undertaken a cost benefit analysis of the work to upgrade and extend the State Barrier Fence?
- (11) If yes to (10) —
 - (a) when was this analysis carried out, and on what fence lengths and fence standards does this relate; and
 - (b) will the Minister table the relevant studies?
- (12) Has the Government/department undertaken a cost–benefit analysis of the proposed Esperance extension to the State Barrier Fence for the alignment of Least Constraint recommended to the department as the preferred alignment by GHD in the 2012 Scoping Study?
- (13) If yes to (12), will the Minister table the relevant studies?

Hon ROBYN MCSWEENEY replied:

- (1) The estimated total cost for the ‘Yilgarn Gap’ is approximately \$4.2million.
- (2) The Country Local Government Fund through the Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia has contributed \$441 000 towards the construction of the ‘Yilgarn Gap’.
- (3) The estimated costs for the approvals and phase one construction for the proposed ‘Esperance Extension’ is \$1.36million.
- (4) The total estimated cost for the proposed ‘Esperance Extension’ will be prepared once the proposed alignment is agreed, following consultation with stakeholders.
- (5) The Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia is currently undertaking a consultation process with landholders in the region and other key stakeholders, regarding the alignment for the Esperance Extension.
- (6) The Shire of Esperance has committed \$1.76million dollars towards the cost of construction of the proposed Esperance Extension through a Specified Area Rate. The Shire of Ravensthorpe has also committed \$240 000 towards the proposed project.
- (7) The existing State Barrier Fence has had 235km upgraded to wild dog exclusion standard through the Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia; and Mount Marshall.

- (8) A total of 585km of lapwire upgrades to the existing State Barrier Fence will be completed within the next 12 months, resulting in 820km of fence upgrades overall.
- (9) The total estimated cost for the 820km upgrades to the existing State Barrier Fence is \$1.02 million.
- (10) Yes
- (11) (a) The Benefit Cost Analysis was prepared by the consulting company URS in 2007 based on the following fence lengths:
Existing SBF upgrades: 1170km
Proposed Esperance Extension: 450km
The fence standard that relates to this study is:
- 10 line emu fence with foot netting attached to the bottom line wire for wild dog control
 - 1.35m high stock-lock fence with a lapwire skirt.
- (b) [See paper 5368.]
- (12) No, the alignment for the Esperance Extension has not been confirmed.
- (13) Not applicable