

BILBY MANAGEMENT PLANS — PARDOO AND WALLAL DOWNS STATIONS

415. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to recent reports of bureaucracy strangling station owners in in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, in particular the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's requirement for bilby management plans prior to the granting of permits on Pardoo and Wallal Downs Stations, which are 50 kilometres apart.

- (1) Can the minister explain the difference between the bilbies on these two stations?
- (2) Why are separate bilby management plans required for these adjacent coastal strip pastoral leases?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Environment who is away from the chamber on urgent parliamentary business, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information was provided to the minister by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

- (1) The bilby is listed as vulnerable under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. There are records of bilbies in proximity to both Pardoo Station and Wallal Downs Station. Fauna surveys were required for both stations to assess the potential impact to the bilby and its habitat from the proposed clearing.
- (2) Pardoo and Wallal Downs Stations have applied for and received their own clearing permits for their individual developments. Management plans were required for both Pardoo and Wallal Downs Stations to ensure that any impacts to bilbies are managed prior to clearing.