

DECLARED PEST RATE

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

I refer to the money collected for the declared pest rate.

- (1) How much money was collected in the 2017–18 financial year through the declared pest rate under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 to fund recognised biosecurity groups?
- (2) Of the amount collected, how much was allocated to each of the recognised biosecurity groups under the BAM act in the 2017–18 financial year?
- (3) From funding provided to each of the recognised biosecurity groups, how much was unspent by each of the groups in the 2017–18 financial year?
- (4) What happens to allocated unspent funds?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. I warn the house that the answer is quite lengthy.

- (1) In the 2017–18 financial year, \$1 601 001.68 was collected from declared pest rates. This was matched by state government funds.
- (2)–(3) I am just wondering, Madam President, whether it would be better if I incorporated the answers to parts (2) and (3) because there is such a lengthy list of biosecurity groups. I will answer part (4) separately. I seek leave to have the responses to parts (2) and (3) incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

- (2) In the 2017/18 financial year, the following amounts were allocated to each Recognised Biosecurity Groups based on forecast rates and matched funds from government:
 - Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$671,744
 - Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group: \$396,284
 - Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$289,863
 - Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$417,632
 - Goldfields-Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$291,693
 - Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group: \$174,457
 - Carnarvon Growers Association: \$120,291
- (3) The total funds left unspent at the end of the 2017/18 financial year from the collected and matched funds for each Recognised Biosecurity Group are:
 - Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$0
 - Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group: \$0
 - Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$224,584
 - Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$16,382
 - Goldfields-Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association: \$0
 - Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group: \$4,733
 - Carnarvon Growers Association: \$46,897

I note that the Carnarvon RBG had a large amount carried into the following financial year, as the RBGs second payment invoice fell into the next financial year. This was due a change in Executive Officer.

- (4) The amount of funds collected through the rate for each group is based upon the group's operational plan. Each group presents invoices to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development that reflects its plan and the forecast rate amounts to be collected. Any reserve amounts are held in the declared pest account and are available to the group through the director general for carrying out proposed operations.