

UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND - PEST, ANIMAL AND WEED CONTROL

4995. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

Could the Minister please detail -

- (1) How much was spent on pest, animal and weed control on unallocated Crown Land in 2006-2007?
- (2) Which parcels of unallocated Crown Land have these controls been put in place on?
- (3) How does the Government measure the success or failure of these control programs on unallocated Crown Land?
- (4) How many species of weeds have been eliminated or eradicated in Western Australia from 2001 to the present?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Total DEC expenditure in 2006/07 across all lands, including national parks, nature reserves, State forest and unallocated Crown land, was approximately \$3.1 million for weed control and \$6.7 million for feral animal control. Because programs are often integrated across land tenures, separate figures for individual categories of land are not readily available, however the total expenditure on unallocated Crown land in 2006/07 was approximately \$870,000.
- (2) Pest animal and weed control works have been carried out by DEC on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves in the South Coast, Goldfields, Midwest, Pilbara, Kimberley, Wheatbelt, Warren and South West regions. Priorities are discussed with regional groups such as those established through the Agriculture Protection Board including zone control authorities. Significant expenditures were made on the control of wild dogs on unallocated Crown lands in the north-eastern wheatbelt and the southern rangelands, and on the control of weeds on unallocated Crown land in the Fitzroy River area and near the south coast.
- (3) The success or failure of control programs is generally measured by the presence/absence or population density of the treated pest animals and weeds or by the impact of the pests on native flora, fauna and vegetation or neighbouring values.
- (4) Weed eradication is extremely difficult to achieve. Saving Our Species funding has been applied to control approximately 50 weed species on DEC-managed reserves and Crown land, with the following species being targeted for local eradication: Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), Tobacco Plant/Tree Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Century Plant (*Agave american*), Asparagus fern (*Asparagus scandens*), Climbing Asparagus fern (*Asparagus plumosus*), Bridal veil (*Asparagus declinatus*), Holly leaved senecio (*Senecio glastifolius*), Californian figwort (*Scrophularia californica*), Succowia (*Succowia balearica*), Crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*), Christmas Lily (*Alstroemeria puchella*), White weeping broom (*Raetama raetam*), Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*), Cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*) on pastoral leases, and Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*).