

WILD DOG ACTION PLAN

1328. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

Regional communities and peak bodies have welcomed the minister's recent announcement of \$19.94 million to support recommendations from the WA wild dog action plan. We note that a large proportion of the funding will be for the installation, repair and replacement of fencing.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Victorian government recently increased bounties for wild dogs from \$100 to \$120?
- (2) Is the minister aware of the success of the 2014 wild dog bounty trial in Western Australia in which 505 bounties were collected in a relatively short time?
- (3) Why does the WA dog action plan not include funding for wild dog bounties?
- (4) Is the minister aware of any local government authorities that are offering wild dog bounties?

Hon MARK LEWIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) I have not been formally briefed on the matter.
- (2) The trial did result in more wild dogs being controlled over the 12-month period than normally occurs without a bounty.
- (3) The WA wild dog action plan was developed by the WA Wild Dog Action Group. Members of this group represent pastoral and agricultural industries. Following substantial industry and community consultation, all options identified by the group for wild dog control were assessed with science-based information and economic analysis. As a result, wild dog bounties are not recommended as a funded action in the plan. The plan provides additional support for recognised biosecurity groups for wild dog control. An RBG can initiate a bounty scheme from its available resources should it choose to do so.
- (4) The Shire of Murchison has a small ongoing pest animal bounty program, including for wild dogs.