

WESTERN GREY KANGAROOS - CULLING PROGRAM

1798. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Has the managed program for the cull of Western Grey Kangaroos been effective?
- (2) Are the cull quotas for the Western Grey Kangaroo being achieved?
- (3) Is damage still occurring to Native Vegetation due to the overpopulation of the Western Grey Kangaroo?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) Yes. The Western Grey Kangaroo Management Plan covers the management of the species in Western Australia. The three stated aims of the plan, being to maintain populations of the species across its natural range in Western Australia in an ecologically sustainable manner; to mitigate damage caused by Western Grey Kangaroos; and to provide for commercial utilisation of harvested animals, have been achieved.
- (2) The commercial harvest of Western Grey Kangaroo in Western Australia for 2006 was 169,168 animals. This was 87% of the allowable quota which is acceptable within the overall aims of the plan. Achievement of quota harvest levels is dependent on kangaroo populations as well as seasonal factors, shooter availability and market demand.
- (3) Most damage issues occur on the edges between developed and more natural areas and also where pastures are grown adjacent to bushland. Damage is primarily to crops, pastures and fences, but some damage to native vegetation occurs where kangaroo densities are high. Kangaroo harvesting can reduce, but not eliminate, damage in such areas.