

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM — PEEL REGION

7369. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Health

I refer to the Mosquito Control Program, substantially funded by the Department of Health, and ask:

- (a) what are the Government's plans to improve and resource mosquito control and research in the Peel Region;
- (b) what funding is allocated to the Mosquito Control Program in the Peel Region for 2011–12;
- (c) what was spent in the 2009–10 and 2010–11 financial years; and
- (d) what additional allocation has been made by the Government for research into mosquito controls into the future?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (a) The Department of Health (DOH) has assisted Peel region Local Governments with mosquito management and has resourced ongoing surveillance and research into mosquitoes and mosquito-borne viruses in the region since soon after the Contiguous Local Authorities Group (CLAG) funding scheme for health-driven mosquito management was approved by Cabinet in 1991.

The CLAG funding scheme was reviewed in 2010–11 following considerable consultation with stakeholders during 2009–10. As a result, DOH has committed to maintaining existing support in the region and expanded the program to include a range of additional initiatives. Since new funding was made available on 1 July 2011, the Environmental Health Directorate (EHD) has:

- created, advertised and interviewed for a new position with a specific role to assist Local Governments to develop effective, integrated mosquito management plans;
 - through the CLAG funding scheme, provided a record number of aerial (helicopter) treatments for Local Governments, as required, based on monitoring of larval densities;
 - funded and provided expert assistance for a major trial of a new liquid larvicide formulation for application by helicopter and has started using the new liquid larvicide in the Peel region on a regular basis;
 - funded a review of aerial application methodologies used by the DOH's current service provider (the final report from this has just been received and will result in a number of significant improvements and efficiencies in the program);
 - commenced arrangements to provide regional training courses in the south-west during 2012 to further train staff;
 - assisted and advised Environmental Health Officers with ground surveillance and management recommendations;
 - attended Peel CLAG meetings to provide advice on all aspects of mosquito management;
 - provided up-to-date data on human cases of mosquito-borne disease, environmental monitoring results (mosquitoes and viruses), weather and climatic forecasts, and mosquito control advice to the Peel Region;
 - continued to provide comments to Local and State Government and Developers regarding health and amenity risks from poorly sited developments and/or conflicting adjoining land use; and
 - continued to fund a mosquito-borne virus early warning program (undertaken by The University of Western Australia (UWA) on behalf of DOH) to enable Local Governments in the Peel Region to maximise the effectiveness of their mosquito management resources.
- (b) The DOH received and funded a request for 50% of the chemical larvicides used by the Peel CLAG for the 2011–12 season for \$54,540.82.

In addition, DOH has funded 100% of the cost of the helicopter for aerial application of larvicides in the Peel region. To date, this is approximately \$216,252.60.

DOH also funds an early warning and mosquito surveillance program, undertaken by UWA, of which approximately \$188,600.00 was directly relevant to the Peel region program in 2011–12.

The Peel region Local Governments also contribute substantially to mosquito management in the Peel region. Their expenditure can be obtained by contacting them directly.

- (c) The DOH provided \$41,688.41 to the Peel CLAG in 2009–10 for larviciding (being the full sum requested by the Peel CLAG), as well as \$58,521.76 for helicopter application of larvicides and \$176,000.00 for early warning and surveillance.

The DOH provided \$19,216.04 for larvicides to the Peel CLAG in 2010–11 (being the full sum requested by the Peel CLAG) as well as \$166,441.40 for the helicopter and \$183,000.00 for early warning and surveillance.

- (d) The CLAG funding scheme was reviewed between 2009 and 2011. The recommended outcome of the review was to retain all existing elements and expand the program to include the following additional elements:

- employment of an additional officer within Environmental Health Hazards dedicated to the support of Local Government;
- funding assistance for additional larvicides and adulticides, based on logistical and environmental considerations specific to each Local Government;
- assistance with development of Local Government Mosquito Management Plans;
- production and evaluation of targeted health promotion material for use by Population Health Units and Local Governments during high risk seasons;
- provision of additional regional training opportunities; and
- trials of new chemical formulations and application methods.

An internal recommendation paper was circulated to and supported by the DOH Senior Executive in late 2010 and an additional \$300,000.00 per annum was allocated to the EHD budget, commencing July 2011.