

BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS — DECLARED PESTS

1438. Hon LOUISE KINGSTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to pest management in Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions—managed reserves.

(1) How many of the following feral animals were destroyed in 2022 by DBCA activities —

- (a) camel;
- (b) horse;
- (c) pig;
- (d) fox;
- (e) cat; and
- (f) deer?

(2) For each of the above, what is the estimated population currently in Western Australia?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment I provide the following answer.

(1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions—DBCA—in partnership with recognised biosecurity groups and recreational hunting groups, undertook the following activities to manage pest species in 2022 —

- (a) A total of 351 feral camels were destroyed, with 316 in the Kimberley region, 10 in the midwest region and 25 in the goldfields region.
- (b) Eight feral horses were destroyed in the Kimberley region.
- (c) Approximately 1 500 feral pigs were destroyed, with 182 in the Kimberley region, 500 in the midwest region, 92 in the wheatbelt region, 271 in the Swan region, 28 in regional parks and 425 in the south west region.
- (d)–(e) DBCA’s Western Shield program delivered fox and/or feral cat management to over 3.8 million hectares of DBCA-managed and adjoining lands in Western Australia. The number of these introduced predators controlled through the program is not recorded due to the scale and complexity of this management activity, with outcomes focused on the overall recovery of native species.
- (f) Six feral deer were destroyed in the Warren region.

(2) DBCA does not collect data on the estimated population of species referred to in (1).