

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

989. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I have received feedback from various volunteer wildlife rehabilitation and care groups that conditions introduced under the new licence for wildlife rehabilitators is causing undue stress as costs on individuals and groups across WA have increased. Who is responsible for the costs associated with veterinary care and the rehabilitation of sick, injured, abandoned, orphaned and displaced wildlife in WA?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer. Under the *Code of practice for wildlife rehabilitation in Western Australia*, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator must ensure that they have the capacity to provide for the essential needs of rescued fauna and have the resources necessary to appropriately prepare fauna for release back into the wild. This includes the capacity to provide for veterinary services when required. The animal welfare grant program, administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, offers grants of up to \$50 000 GST-free for eligible organisations in each grant round. There are four rounds of grants in total, with one to be run each financial year in 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25.