

STARLINGS IN SOUTH COASTAL REGION — ERADICATION PROGRAM

262. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

With reference to the program to eradicate the starling population in the south coastal region, I ask:

- (a) has the Department of Agriculture and Food carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the program;
- (b) if so, will the program be continued;
- (c) what funding will be allocated to this program; and
- (d) what time frame will be given to the program to ensure the eradication of the starlings from this area?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) Yes. The Department of Agriculture and Food (the Department) commissioned John Parkes, from Landcare Research, New Zealand, in mid-2008 to review the effectiveness of the program to eradicate starlings from the South Coast of Western Australia. Mr Parkes is an independent, international expert on eradications of invasive animal populations and has provided similar technical advice and program reviews throughout the world.
- (b)-(d) Subject to the 2009/10 budget process.