

WILD DOGS IN PASTORAL AREAS — BARRIER FENCE EAST OF HYDEN

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

With regard to the Barrier Fence east of Hyden and the effect that its incompleteness is having on the farmers in the region, I ask:

- (a) are there any plans for the repair of this fence;
- (b) when will the repairs be done on the existing fence;
- (c) when will the remaining 20km of fence be completed to secure the agricultural area from some of the effects of the roaming dog packs; and
- (d) if the fence is not completed, will there be subsidies or assistance to farmers to combat the dog problem?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Starting in 2009.
- (c) The options to complete the barrier fence near Hyden (The Yilgarn Gap) are being considered and evaluated, so no date has been set.
- (d) Once these two sections are completed the entire length of this 197 km section of fence will be new or near new, with 75 km of it being fully dog proof and the remainder at emu standard, which will greatly improve the level of protection for the farmers from wild dogs. As well as funding fence maintenance and replacement, the Government provides specific assistance to farmers and others managing wild dogs in the Hyden area by means of the Eastern Wheatbelt Declared Species Group (EWDSG), which coordinates wild dog management and is co-funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food (\$44,600 for 08/09), the nine member Shires and two mining companies with operations locally. The Department of Environment and Conservation also contributes to EWDSG by funding a dogger who works with the DSG. There is also a smaller co-funded wild dog DSG based at Ravensthorpe.