

ENTRY POINTS INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA — QUARANTINE CHECKPOINTS

4292. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to quarantine checkpoints, and the quarantine checkpoints at the Eucla and Kununurra, I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware that there are four alternative entry points into Western Australia: Tanami Road; Buntine Highway; Duncan Road (Highway); and the Central Desert Highway;
- (b) what is the frequency of the random mobile inspections that take place on these entry points;
- (c) what are the numbers with regards to traffic volume on these roads; and
 - (i) please provide a breakdown on traffic types;
- (d) how many inspections were carried out at each of these entry points;
- (e) is the stock truck wash down facility and dip tank is still operational on the Duncan Road entry point; and
 - (i) if there is still a requirement for such facility then is the traffic sufficient to warrant a permanent quarantine checkpoint;
- (f) are there plans for increased inspections or establishment of permanent check points at these alternative entry routes; and
- (g) is the Department in a position to fund future inspection points and where would that funding come from?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) Yes. Buntine is the only partly sealed road and Great Central Road is the only road regarded as an all season road.
- (b) Irregular. Last random mobile inspections on the Great Central Road was a 20 week survey from April to September 2007. The formal Tanami, Buntine and Duncan Highway mobile inspections ceased in 2000. A multi agency road block was undertaken from 20-23 July 2010 on Duncan and Buntine Highway in conjunctions with a rodeo event in Halls Creek. A one week traffic survey on each of these roads is planned for April 2011.
- (c) Great Central Road Survey — 612 interstate vehicles (4 vehicles per day), 1341 intrastate vehicles (8.8 vehicles per day). Duncan and Buntine Highway — 23 interstate vehicles (8 vehicles per day), 3 intrastate vehicles (1 vehicle per day). Main Roads have placed traffic counters on roads but these are not on the border so primarily intrastate vehicles travelling both directions.
 - (i) Great Central Road Survey — interstate 596 cars, 16 trucks. Duncan and Buntine Highway — interstate 20 cars, 3 trucks.
- (d) Great Central Road Survey — 1953 inspections. Duncan and Buntine Highway — 26 inspections.
- (e) The Halls Creek Quarantine Yards are currently closed awaiting an occupational health and safety (OHS) assessment.
 - (i) Current traffic is insufficient to justify permanent road checkpoint.
- (f) A one week traffic survey on each of these roads is planned for April 2011. No permanent checkpoints are planned.
- (g) Inspections and traffic surveys are funded from within baseline appropriation. Current traffic is insufficient to justify additional permanent road checkpoints.