

BUSHFIRE MITIGATION

**1095. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the article from the ABC website today regarding the role of unmanaged invasive grasses, particularly buffel grass, in fuelling bushfires.

- (1) What is the government doing to control the spread of invasive grasses, including buffel grass, in the context of bushfire management planning?
- (2) If mitigation measures are being taken, how is the government measuring their success?

**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)–(2) Buffel grass is a widespread introduced weed in Western Australia’s agricultural region, which supports the pastoral industry. Buffel grass is one variable considered when assessing fuel loads in the context of bushfire management planning. Bushfire preparedness through fuel reduction is a shared responsibility for government agencies, local governments and private landowners. On lands managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, weed management efforts are prioritised based on species-led and asset protection–led management programs to maximise the use of available resources.