

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES — BIOSECURITY GROUPS

1914. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food's (DAF) invitation to local governments to form Recognised Biosecurity Groups under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Act 2007*, and ask:

- (a) have amendments to the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Act 2007* been drafted to shift enforcement powers from DAFWA Biosecurity Officers to Local Government officers;
- (b) if yes to (a), what is the name of the bill;
- (c) if no to (a), what is the proposed time frame for the amendment to the act;
- (d) has DAF prepared a monetary plan to reimburse local governments for work carried out by their officers in lieu of DAF employees; and
- (e) will monetary compensation to Local Governments or Recognised Biosecurity Groups be paid on the number of enforcement notices issued?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a) No. The *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) makes provision for the authorisation of Inspectors from the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) and other organisations.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) There is no proposal to amend the BAM Act for the purpose stated in (a).
- (d)–(e) No.