

EMUS, AGRICULTURAL AREAS, CULLING

329. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

Emus are massing in the northern agricultural areas, resulting in damage to crops. Will the minister give immediate permission to cull the animals?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

The Department of Agriculture is continuing maintenance and monitoring along the state barrier fence to ensure its integrity and has officers in the area today. I am aware that there is also some concern about damage from emus that have bred within cropping areas - that is, inside the state barrier fence - and that producers have met with Department of Conservation and Land Management and Agriculture Protection Board officers to discuss control needs and options.

I understand this situation is being addressed through issuing damage control permits by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. I have asked the Department of Agriculture to work closely with the Department of Conservation and Land Management to ensure that appropriate strategies are implemented to minimise damage.