

BIOSECURITY — DECLARED PESTS AND WEEDS

1141. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the amendment of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 in 2016.

- (1) Has the move to do away with regional agricultural departments in favour of volunteer regional biosecurity groups been effective in controlling pests and weeds?
- (2) What is the government doing to control the spread of pests and weeds on crown land?

The PRESIDENT: It was a rather broad question.

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The premise of the question is incorrect. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has 25 regional offices, 12 research and aquaculture facilities and four quarantine checkpoint locations. The department employs over 1 790 FTE, with over 35 per cent of staff based in regional offices.
- (2) Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, individual landholders and land managers are responsible for the control of widespread and established declared pests on their land.