

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT —
RECOGNISED BIOSECURITY GROUPS

1377. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the recognised biosecurity groups and industry funding schemes under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007.

- (1) Will the minister please advise why broadacre farmers in the agricultural area who are already making contributions to their relevant industry funding schemes have to now pay a declared pest rate?
- (2) Is the minister aware that in 2009 an independent review panel recommended that the skeleton weed program should be wound down over a three-year period, with skeleton weed becoming a fully grower-managed weed matter by the end of that period?
- (3) If yes to (2), why is skeleton weed regulated under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Grains) Regulations 2010?

Hon MARK LEWIS replied:

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

- (1) A production-based levy is applied for industry funding schemes for control of pests and diseases identified as a priority to industry. Separately, recognised biosecurity groups can request the minister to determine a declared pest rate for their prescribed area. This occurs with broad consultation. The rate is matched by the state government. The production levy and the declared pest rate are for separate purposes.
- (2) Yes. However, more recently, the committee of the grains, seeds and hay industry funding scheme undertook a grower survey to determine the industry position for the future of the eradication program. This substantially supported continuation of the current scheme.
- (3) Skeleton weed is a declared pest under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007. This provides regulatory capacity to support the industry-based eradication program.