

WILD DOG PROGRAM

293. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

I have tried to work out what is in the Agriculture Protection Board budget, but it requires a better man than I, because there is no rounded information in the budget papers.

- (1) What provision is contained in the APB budget for the wild dog program, and is there an initiative that will assist those people who are losing livestock in the eastern wheatbelt and pastoral areas?
- (2) Has there been a commitment from the Department of Conservation and Land Management?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1)-(2) I am not sure that I can answer the second part of the question; that matter will need to be addressed by the Minister for the Environment. I can advise that there is an additional \$200 000 in the budget for dog control, and I will go through that with the member outside the Chamber if he prefers. I think the total commitment in the budget for dog control is \$1.4 million from the State, plus \$400 000 of grower contributions, totalling \$1.8 million. I advise further - I thank the member for the opportunity to do so - that detailed briefings on the whole agriculture budget will be available to the Opposition at a time of its choosing between now and the estimates hearings, so that we can go through details such as these.

Hon Murray Criddle: Does that include me?

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes. The member is invited to approach the department in the normal way.