

THREE-HORNED BEDSTRAW, ERADICATION FUNDING

1348. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

What mechanisms are available to fund the eradication of the weed bedstraw?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for advising my office this afternoon that this issue may come up. Three-horned bedstraw - *Galium tricorneratum* - is a declared plant assigned to categories P1 and P2 for the whole of the State under the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976 and must be eradicated. The Plant Pests and Diseases (Eradication Funds) Act 1974 provides a mechanism to fund the cost of eradicating three-horned bedstraw. Under that Act, the minister may prescribe three-horned bedstraw to be a "plant disease". On recommendation of the minister, the Governor may by order published in the *Government Gazette*, specify the amount of any contribution that a grain grower must pay to fund the cost of eradicating a prescribed plant disease, within a particular year.

The Department of Agriculture has engaged the grain industries in urgent discussions, prior to a meeting of the Agriculture Protection Board on 23 October 2003, to finalise the strategy to be adopted for the eradication of three-horned bedstraw and determine the funding arrangements to be applied in support of this program. I will be receiving a recommendation regarding the eradication and funding arrangements for three-horned bedstraw next week.