

DOGS, DESTRUCTION OF LIVESTOCK

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

Single dogs and packs of dogs in the eastern agricultural areas are causing a problem by destroying livestock. Can the minister guarantee a speedy resolution to this problem?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

This is a serious problem in that area, and the issue is being addressed as a matter of urgency. I had a meeting with the Agriculture Protection Board today, at which this matter was raised. A full-time dog control officer is working in the area. This week a meeting of local shires agreed to take up an Agriculture Protection Board proposal for the co-funding of an additional dog control officer. This service will be implemented as soon as possible. Land-holder training in the preparation of meat baits has been arranged.

The Department of Agriculture continues to work closely with local producers to achieve effective wild dog control through strategic aerial baiting of vacant crown land, targeted ground baiting and trapping, plus conduct of baiting, trapping and shooting by land-holders.