

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — CULLING OPERATIONS

340. Hon Rick Mazza to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment:

In respect of culling operations formerly undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation, including in co-operation with other government agencies and the use of contractors for the financial years 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12, please provide the following:

- (a) the number of:
 - (i) aerial shoots; and
 - (ii) ground shoots;
- (b) the total number of personnel involved;
- (c) the number and species of feral animals culled for each exercise;
- (d) the location of the exercise;
- (e) the total cost of each shoot; and
- (f) the total cost for each animal that was culled?

Hon Helen Morton replied:

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) is responsible for managing over 26 million hectares of the State's national parks, conservation parks, State forests, timber reserves and nature reserves. DPaW works to protect and conserve these areas and the State's wildlife from the impact of pest animals using a range of techniques; aerial and ground shooting are two examples of the techniques used. Under government agreement DPaW is also provided with some resources for pest animal control on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

The cost of culling pest animals is quite variable and is affected by the population density of the animals. As density reduces through a successful program unit costs will increase.

(a)–(f) [See paper 974.]