

STARLING ERADICATION PROGRAM — POISON METHOD

1901. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

As an established part of the Department of Agriculture and Food's Starling Eradication Program has been the use of poisons to kill the birds, I ask:

- (a) does the Department of Agriculture and Food still use Starlicide as the preferred poison;
- (b) if yes to (a), is the Minister aware that the death of the starling, from eating this poison, usually occurs after three days of suffering; and
- (c) if yes to (a), what has the Department of Agriculture and Food done to prevent this poison affecting the native bird population and the animals that prey on bird populations?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) The Department of Agriculture and Food does not, and has never used Starlicide as a poison for controlling starlings.
- (b)-(c) Not applicable