

SKELETON WEED ERADICATION PROGRAM

1123. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

I refer to the moneys raised from the skeleton weed levy under the Plant Pests and Diseases (Eradication Funds) Act 1974.

- (1) Does the skeleton weed eradication program still have eradication as its principal aim?
- (2) What programs remain in place?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes, it does. The objective strategy options and priorities for the program will be reviewed by grain industry representatives, the Agriculture Protection Board and the Department of Agriculture on 2 April 2002.
- (2) The 2001-02 program includes the following major activities: contracted searching; search coordination and audit; inspection of suspect paddocks; metropolitan and rail line searches; response to new finds; site logging and summer spraying; quarantine property management and compliance audits; contracted winter spraying; biological research; auto-detection development; and landholder communication and extension.