

INSPECTION AND PEST ERADICATION - KIMBERLEY

640. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Housing and Works:

Given the reduction in inspection and pest eradication work in the Kimberley in the past six months -

- (1) What is the budget of the Department of Housing and Works for pest control in this area for 2006-07?
- (2) Will the eradication and control of cockroaches and termites be maintained in government buildings and in Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley?
- (3) Will the minister make available in answer to this question the policy document for pest eradication and inspection in the Kimberley?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Housing and Works, I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Department of Housing and Works advises that there has been no reduction in this program. It is worth noting that between March and April is considered the best time of the year to do the inspections and treatments.

- (1) The maintenance budget for pest control in the Kimberley region for 2006-07 is \$204 300.
- (2) Yes. The department is directly responsible for the public buildings. Cockroaches are the responsibility of the tenants in public housing, except for apartments, duplexes, townhouses and pensioner complexes. In Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley, pest eradication is done through the environmental health officers in the local councils.
- (3) The housing pest policy is available on the department's web site.