

CARNARVON HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY — FRUIT FLY CONTROL

6792. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the recent increase in fruit flies in the horticultural industry in Carnarvon, I ask:

- (a) what role does the Department of Agriculture (the department) have in the control of fruit fly in the Gascoyne region;
- (b) what role does the Federal Agriculture Department have in the control of fruit fly in the Gascoyne region;
- (c) what role does the Carnarvon Growers Association (CGA) have in the control of fruit fly in the Gascoyne region;
- (d) does the State government receive any funding from the Federal Government for the control of fruit fly;
- (e) if yes to (d), how much and is the funding recurrent;
- (f) what funds are available to the Gascoyne region for fruit fly control from the State government;
- (g) has there been an increase in funding to the CGA in the past two years;
- (h) how much funding does the CGA receive for their role in the fruit fly control program;
- (i) who carries out the following functions for fruit fly control in the Gascoyne Region;
 - (i) administration of the program;
 - (ii) supervision for the delivery of the project; and
 - (iii) monitoring the effectiveness of the fruit fly control program;
- (j) how is the effectiveness of the fruit fly control program monitored; and
- (k) is the baiting carried out by volunteers, and if not, who is employed to do the baiting?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) The department provides technical advice on the control of fruit flies, carries out research on new disinfestation techniques for market access, provides technical support to the Carnarvon baiting scheme and facilitates grower meetings.
- (b) None
- (c) The association provides advice to the Carnarvon fruit fly baiting scheme, liaises with growers and DAFWA to improve fruit fly control.
- (d) No
- (e) Not applicable
- (f) 0.2 FTE is proposed for trap checking, occasional salaries for technical advice and training.
- (g)–(h) The CGA should be contacted for this information.
- (i)
 - (i) The Shire of Carnarvon raises revenue for the baiting scheme through property rates based on Gross Rental Value. The Shire allocates approximately \$200,000 to the baiting scheme per annum.
 - (ii) The baiting scheme currently operates under an ad hoc committee structure with representatives from the CGA and DAFWA. The entire situation is being reviewed by the ad hoc committee in consultation with DAFWA.
 - (iii) DAFWA has agreed to undertake this role which was previously carried out by the baiters.
- (j) Approximately 40 Lynfield traps are located on the plantations. The traps are currently inspected by the baiting operator and in the absence of a fruit fly committee. The records are held by the CGA.
- (k) Baiting is carried out by Mr Angelo Andreoli who was recruited by a former fruit fly baiting coordinator. The position is full-time employment.

