QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1556

asked on Tuesday, 31 August 2010

MRS KIERNAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what actions are being undertaken to combat pests and weeds in the National Parks of the Mt Isa Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the honourable Member for the question. She has been a passionate advocate for good environmental management in her electorate.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management conducts regular pest and weed control activities in the Boodjamulla and Camooweal National Parks, particularly in visitor areas. Pest and weed management is a major focus for the dedicated and hard working rangers in the State’s north west.

In the 2010/11 financial year, the department has funded a number of pest and weed projects including:

- $200,000 for stock exclusion fencing on the western boundary at Boodjamulla National Park (totalling $400,000 over last three financial years);
- $27,000 for Boodjamulla Feral Animal Control (aerial shooting of feral animals). This project is in its third year of funding (approximately the same amount each year); and
- $10,000 for Lions tail control Boodjamulla National Park (in its fifth year of funding).

The major pests on Boodjamulla and Camooweal National Parks, particularly Boodjamulla National Park are feral pigs. They cause significant disturbances to the landscape and often promote the spread of weeds within sensitive areas of the national park. The priority for weed control is managing impacts of weeds in accessible riparian habitats and also managing introduced grass species that adversely affect fire regimes. Control of target weed species is achieved through direct pest control and as part of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services’ annual burn program.

A key strategy in the local pest and weed control activities is working with neighbours adjoining Boodjamulla National Park.