

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C177

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 13 June 2017

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to a DPAW proposal to undertake trials of a new 1080-based cat bait 'Hisstory' within the Department of Defence, Australian Wildlife Conservancy managed lands at Yampi Sound Training Area, and ask:

1. Why was there a directive from Department of Defence that no Environmental Compliance Certificate was required for this activity?
2. Why is this trial proposed to take place on Yampi Sound training area and not a DPAW-managed area and when will it take place?
3. Has there been any recent consultation with ranger groups that manage the area and when was that?
4. What is the baseline data of Quoll populations in the testing area and will the death rates of non-target species be released during the baiting program?

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Parks and Wildlife:

- (1) The requirement to prepare an Environmental Clearance Certificate is a matter for the Department of Defence.
- (2) Extensive investigations of a number of areas in the Kimberley were undertaken in 2016 to determine the most appropriate site for the trial to occur. The Yampi Sound Training Area is the only available site in the Kimberley that has a suitable northern quoll population that will provide a scientifically valid sample size to determine any impacts on this species from the 'Hisstory' bait. The trial is not expected to have a significant impact on northern quolls based on previous work undertaken by the Department in the Pilbara.
- (3) Extensive consultation with relevant Aboriginal ranger groups occurred in 2016 and 2017 and these groups will be involved in trapping and monitoring northern quolls for this project.
- (4) The project includes a component to determine the baseline population of northern quolls in the project area. Any deaths of non-target species will be recorded and project results and outcomes will be published.

