



Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 31 October 2022: Mr Bren Burkevics took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 31 October 2022 Page 11

In relation to: Invasive species management

MS CLAY: Thank you, Chair. I can see in the annual report that we had a larger area targeted for invasive species, and we are now in our third year of La Nina. I just want to get some details of whether the invasive species is mostly fauna or flora and how we are resourcing it going ahead. We have the Biosecurity Rapid Response Team, but we are sort of in multiple years of worse-than-usual.

Mr Gentleman: Yes, we got some extra funding for invasive species, and that is both flora and fauna. The team has I think been working well to try and manage that as best they can. Of course, with the increasing rate now, we are seeing more spread of invasive vegetation across the area. I will ask directorate officials to give some detail.

Mr Burkevics: Thanks, Minister; thanks, Ms Clay. The Biosecurity Rapid Response Team sits within our biosecurity and rural services area. It has a team that is tasked to respond to reports of invasive weeds around the estate. I think as I mentioned when we last spoke, there is a good example of how they did that on Tuggeranong Hill—a report from a ranger and they responded. I think it is absolutely fair to say there is pressure on those teams at the moment with significant weed and other grass growth across the ACT. Particularly with the ongoing rain, it is very, very difficult to get into these areas, let alone spray, so it is going to require a huge effort from the team over hopefully the summertime to address some of these growing risks and pressures that we face with weeds.

MS CLAY: Sure. How much more funding did we get this year than last year? How many FTEs is that likely to support?

Mr Gentleman: It is a four-year program. It is \$2.968 million over the four years.

MS CLAY: How many people is that?

Mr Burkevics: I would have to take that one on notice.

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Five additional full-time staff.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 7/14/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA