



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS ESD- No 08



Asked by Giulia Jones: Minister Corbell, MLA, for the Environment and Sustainable Development took on notice the following question:

Ref: Hansard Transcript, Select Committee on Estimate 2014-2015, 24 June 2014, pg 66

In relation to: Can you maybe take on notice information for the committee about how the Gonacon works? The science behind it and how it functions? If it is a slow release drug, if it is a a—you know, what is the mechanism that slows down the fertility scientifically.

Minister Corbell, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

GonaConTM is a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) immunocontraceptive vaccine developed by the United States (US) Department of Agriculture. It is currently registered by the US Environment Protection Agencies (EPA) for White-tailed deer.

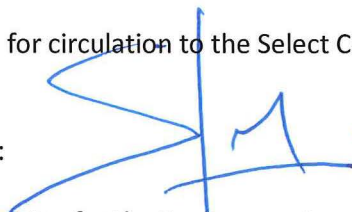
GonaConTM works by stimulating the production of antibodies that bind to GnRH, a hormone in the animal's body that regulates the production of the sex hormones (e.g. estrogen, progesterone and testosterone). This process reduces GnRH's ability to stimulate the release of sex hormones causing sexual activity to decrease for as long as sufficient levels of the antibody is present. Research has been undertaken in the US on white-tailed deer, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, feral cats and elk. A USDA facts sheet is available: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/factsheets/FS_FAQ_GonaCon_May%202010.pdf).

In the ACT, ESDD has been researching the use of GonaConTM in eastern grey kangaroos at the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station. Results have shown GonaConTM to be highly effective (Research results available on the ESDD web site:

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/576172/Conservation-Planning-And-Research-Program-Report-2011-2013_web.pdf (Page 37)). This research has been in collaboration with CSIRO and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre which is also working on the registration of GonaConTM in Australia. GonaConTM is currently delivered through tranquilisation of the animal and physical delivery.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date:

1.7.14

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, MLA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE (QTON):

1. Answers to QTONs should be lodged in signed hard copy (not emailed) to the Committee Support office within **5 working days of the hearing day when the question was taken on notice**. Day 1 is the first working day after the day of the hearing in which the question is taken on notice. **Example:** *If the question is taken on notice on Monday, the answer should be submitted by close of business the following Monday (even if the hearings for the portfolio stretch across several days).*
2. Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the name of the document, the author and / or agency publishing the document, page number/s, and a hyperlink to the document, if applicable.