

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — PILBARA LEAF-NOSED BAT WORKSHOP

1660. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment:

For the one day workshop conducted by the Department of Parks and Wildlife on 25 June 2013 on Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bats, with the purpose to determine the highest-priority research needs to ensure survival of viable populations of Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bats, I ask:

- (a) does the Department of Parks and Wildlife propose to provide the participants of that workshop with an annual report on its achievements in implementing the agreed actions;
- (b) what were the actions agreed to by the participants at that workshop;
- (c) what was the dollar value of offset funds under Department of Parks and Wildlife control on 24 June 2014 that related to Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bats;
- (d) what offset funds were expended between 25 June 2013 and 24 June 2014 on Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat projects;
- (e) how much, and on what projects were these funds expended;
- (f) against each of the actions agreed to by the workshop participants, what has been specifically achieved between 25 June 2013 and 24 June 2014 on Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat projects; and
- (g) what research reports or other publications indicating outcomes have been published between 25 June 2013 and 24 June 2014 that relate to the agreed actions for Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bats?

**Hon Helen Morton replied:**

- (a) No. The Department will provide annual progress reports of research activities once they commence, as stipulated in the Memoranda of Understanding executed with the companies providing offset funds for the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat, and these will be available to the public.
- (b) Actions agreed to by workshop participants for the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat were:
  - (i) Prepare workshop outputs.
  - (ii) Distribute preliminary workshop outputs.
  - (iii) Scope and distribute research priorities.
  - (iv) Release a revised and endorsed Pilbara leaf-nosed bat research plan.
  - (v) Publication of a peer-reviewed paper.
  - (vi) Look for opportunities to progress agreed research priorities, which were:
    - (1) Collate existing knowledge/data;
    - (2) Confirm distribution and number of day roosts;
    - (3a) Characterise natural roosts;
    - (3b) Characterise foraging habitat;
    - (4a) Understand social behaviour and demography;
    - (4b) Understand connectivity requirements; and
    - (5) Determine how to construct artificial roosts.
- (c) \$213 000
- (d) \$5 200
- (e) \$5 200 was spent on workshop action (iii). The funds were used to engage the services of bat experts Dr K. Armstrong and Mr B. Bullen to draft project scopes for each of the six priority research activities.
- (f) Progress against each of the actions is:
  - (i) Completed.
  - (ii) Completed workshop outputs are publicly available. The bibliography can be provided on request.
  - (iii) Completed.
  - (iv) A revised research plan for Pilbara leaf-nosed bat is currently being drafted.

- (v) A draft has been prepared and circulated to workshop participants for feedback, with the aim of submitting it to a peer-reviewed journal.
- (vi) Progress is dependent on the research plan being finalised and endorsed and the availability of funding.
- (g) No research reports or other publications have been published by the Department between 25 June 2013 and 24 June 2014.