



THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC (SFAG)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

for

**PREMIER COLIN BARNETT MLA
GINGIN FORUM
5 FEBRUARY 2010**

PREAMBLE 1

Total Ban on the use of Raw Poultry Manure in irrigated horticulture

Over the last 15 years many Shires surrounding Perth, including Gingin, have been subjected to the scourge of stable flies.

In 1996, the then Liberal Government appointed the Stable Fly Management Steering Group, which initiated a substantial, taxpayer funded scientific study regarding breeding grounds that proved that raw poultry manure used in irrigated horticulture, together with poorly managed vegetable crop waste, were the major contributing factors to stable fly breeding. (see *SFMSG Report, 3.0 Executive Summary, p7*)

The first of two key recommendations of the subsequent 1998 Report to the then Minister of Agriculture, Monty House, was that raw poultry manure used in irrigated horticulture be banned by 31 December 1999, or earlier.

Ten years later, following no action by any government, the Stable Fly Management Steering Group again recommended the total ban on the use of raw poultry manure, this time to take effect in September 2011.

Major stable fly breeding problems are still being experienced, with many stock owners driven to despair having to watch their livestock suffer, as well as having their own quality of lifestyle diminished, by these vicious biting flies.

Despite five years of lobbying by the SFAG, we continue to receive mixed signals from the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture as to which department is going to actually implement the ban and upgrade the Regulations.

QUESTION 1

Will the Premier guarantee that the September 2011 total ban on the use of raw poultry manure in horticulture will be implemented on time, as promised by the current Minister for Agriculture on 21 April 2009?

PREAMBLE 2

Regulatory Reform and enforcement

In August 2009 the SFAG was advised by the Office of the Minister for Agriculture that the Health Department is currently reviewing the existing Poultry Manure Regulations to improve their effectiveness in dealing with illegal poultry manure use, and that strengthening of the current Regulations under the Health Act is the most straightforward and quickest solution.

QUESTION 2

Will the Premier, as a matter of urgency, commit to putting in place substantially increased penalties for fly breeding within the existing Poultry Manure and Fly Breeding Regulations that will be sufficient to deter offenders.

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