

Control of Invasive Rainbow Lorikeets

Ms BADGER question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER

My question is from Lyons constituents who are working to control the population of invasive rainbow lorikeets. Despite years of awareness campaigns, the population and damage being caused by rainbow lorikeets continues to grow across the state, placing pressure on local biodiversity and the agricultural sector. Earlier this year a volunteer-led group tackling the issue won the Tasmanian Biosecurity Award. But volunteers alone cannot be expected to manage this escalating biosecurity threat. Given there is still a critical window to control this species before impacts become entrenched, as we have seen happen in Western Australia, will you act on stronger legislative measures, including restrictions on the breeding and sale of rainbow lorikeets in Tasmania? Will you commit to a properly funded, coordinated control strategy, rather than continuing to rely on under-resourced volunteers to manage a growing invasive species crisis?