

Estimates Committee 2010 Questions Taken On Notice

(11/06/2010 to 18/06/2010)

Date: 17/06/2010

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Mimosa

From: Mr Peter Chandler to Mr Karl Hampton
Natural Resources Environment and Heritage

8-6

Question: Mr CHANDLER: Can we find that information in regard to mimosa that had died on the station at Melaleuca?

Mr HAMPTON: I might also add that, under the current program, Caring for our Country, along with the Indigenous Land Corporation, there are projects for mimosa management, and that is up to next year, July next year. NRETAS is assisting the Northern Land Council with developing a new Caring for Country application, but certainly, in terms of that, there might be some answers there as well from the Northern Land Council.

Answer:

Answered On: 17/06/2010

Answer: There are several thousand hectares of dead or sick mimosa at Melaleuca Station.

In February 2010, NRETAS Staff collected specimens from Melaleuca Station which were tested by DoR plant pathologists. Three species of pathogenic fungi were recovered from the specimens. One of these has been the subject of research in the 1900s as it has been associated with other mimosa dieback events. These events are not uncommon, but have not previously been seen on the scale of that at Melaleuca Station.

The cause remains uncertain, but NRETAS scientists will commence specimen collection again as access improves in the dry season, and will seek funding, with partner organisation, to conduct a research program to investigate the phenomenon. If a definite cause can be identified, the aim would be to investigate methods of spreading it to other mimosa infestations.