C579

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question without notice

(of which some notice is given)

Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to your reply letter to Mr Thomas Cameron (Ref 49-10541) dated 2 March 2016, related to clearing purported to be firebreak maintenance within and around a ' Threatened Ecological Community' in an area proposed for a Caravan Park by the Gingin Shire. In that letter you reported that the Gingin Shire was not aware of the existence of the Threatened Ecological Community when the clearing was ordered in January 2016.

1. Is the Minister aware that the Gingin Shire (under the signature of Jeremy Edwards CEO) submitted a referral for a proposed action to the Commonwealth Minister on 5 August 2015 and that this referral referred to the Threatened Ecological Community listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*?

2. Does the Minister now consider that his Department was mislead by the Shire of Gingin?

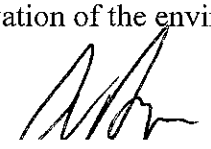
3. What action will the Minister take with respect to the CEO misleading his Department?

4. What actions will the Minister be taking with respect to the unauthorized clearing conducted by the Shire of Gingin?

I thank the Hon Member for some notice of this question.

1. No.

2. No, at the time the local government undertook the firebreak maintenance the site was Unallocated Crown Land and the Reserve vested in the Shire of Gingin for Tourism purposes. The Shire had not been formally advised that the site contained any 'Threatened or Endangered' species.

3. None

4. The Shire of Gingin is currently finalising the Scheme 4 Amendment with the Minister for Planning, which would allow the site to become a conservation zone and in turn ensure the future preservation of the environment.