

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Question on notice

The tabled paper.

Wednesday, 9 April 2014

1069. Hon Robin Chappie to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Lands.

Regarding the clearing of native vegetation on Kimberley pastoral leases, I ask:

- (a) for each of the past seven years, how many hectares of native vegetation clearing has been approved for pastoral leases in the Kimberley region, on a property by property basis:
  - (i) what is the total amount of water use expected as a result of these clearing approvals;
  - (b) how many hectares of native vegetation have actually been cleared on pastoral leases in the Kimberley in the past seven years, including but not limited to Liveringa, GoGo, Wallal Downs and Kilito stations;
  - (c) for how long after granting do clearing approvals remain valid;
  - (d) for each approved clearing, how many megalitres of water are expected to be used for resulting agricultural activity, including for hay growing, stock watering and pasture irrigation;
  - (e) has there been any regional assessment of the potential cumulative environmental impacts of the native vegetation clearing and water use activities set out above;
  - (f) how does this clearing of native vegetation comply with the environmental requirements of the *Land Administration Act 1997* in relation to pastoral leases;
  - (g) is the Government aware of any plans for further large scale native vegetation clearing on any pastoral leases in the Kimberley;
  - (h) what is the Government's policy on approvals for large scale native vegetation clearing on pastoral leases in the Kimberley;
  - (i) does the Government have any policy on limiting the extent and impact of native vegetation clearing and the resultant increased surface and groundwater water use in the Kimberley:
    - (i) if no to (i), why not;
    - (j) how many pastoral lease holders have received diversification permits for land clearing in order to grow crops in the Kimberley during the past seven years;
    - (k) will the Minister detail each diversification permit:
      - (i) if no to (k), why not; and
      - (l) have the land clearing and crop growing activities over the past seven years triggered the future acts provision under the *Native Title Act 1993*:
        - (i) if yes to (l), will the Minister detail which proposals have triggered the future acts provision of the *Native Title Act 1993*; and
        - (ii) if no to (l)(i), why not?

---

Answer

- (a) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (i) Please refer this question to the Minister for Water
- (b) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment

R

- (c) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (d) Please refer this question to the Minister for Water
- (e) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Water
- (f) Under Section 117 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* the Pastoral Lands Board must not issue a Part 7 Division 5 Permit unless it is satisfied that any requirements in relation to the proposal arising from the operation of legislation relating to environmental conservation which is applicable to the land under the lease have been complied with. Any Permit applications are referred to the agencies administering such legislation, including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Environment Regulation and the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (g) Two applications for permits under Part 7 Division 5 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* in the Kimberley that include the clearing of native vegetation are currently under assessment:
- (h) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (i) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (j) In the last seven years the Pastoral Lands Board has issued zero Part 7 Division 5 Permits to clear land in the Kimberley under section 118 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*. In the last seven years the Pastoral Lands Board has issued twenty four (24) Part 7 Division 5 Permits for non-pastoral agricultural use in the Kimberley under section 120 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.
- (k) Part 7 Division 5 Permits for non-pastoral agricultural use in the Kimberley under section 120 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* as per the attached table [See Tabled Paper]
  - (i) Not applicable
  - (l) Yes
  - (i) Future act provisions under the *Native Title Act 1997* apply to all instances where Part 7 Division 5 Permits are required, including all of the permits for non-pastoral agricultural activity listed under (k).
  - (ii) Not applicable.

(k) Part 7 Division 5 Permits for non-pastoral agricultural use in the Kimberley under section 120 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* are as follows:

Station	Purpose	Status	Date of Issue
Anna Plains	The irrigation and production of Callide Rhodes grass for cattle fodder, using three centre pivot irrigators over an area of 90 hectares adjacent to the station airstrip, as identified on the map submitted as part of the application. The Rhodes grass will be harvested prior to seed maturity and only fed out to cattle in the cattle yards prior to transport.	Current	29-Jan-07
Beefwood Park	The growing of non-irrigated annual crops of Maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> ) over a total permit area of 592 hectares composed of one lot of 456 hectares and one lot of 136 hectares as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, silage production, grain harvesting and stubble grazing. Surplus fodder may be sold.	Current	25-Jan-10
Country Downs	Non-irrigated cultivation of forage sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), Jarra finger grass ( <i>Digitaria milanjiana</i> ), Strickland finger grass ( <i>Digitaria milanjiana</i> ) and Cavalcade ( <i>Centrosema pascuorum</i> ) for hay and grazing over 233 hectares of the lease as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application. Appropriate hay baling and/or grazing management actions must be taken for Jarra finger grass and Strickland finger grass to minimise seed set and reduce the risk of seed dispersal via cattle.	Current	20-Jul-12
Dampier Downs	The non-irrigated growing of forage sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), jarra (finger) grass ( <i>Digitaria milanjiana</i> ) and Strickland (finger) grass ( <i>Digitaria milanjiana</i> ) over 200 hectares of the lease, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.	Current	29-Mar-11
Gogo	100ha irrigated fodder using mine dewater.	Cancelled	04-Mar-08
Gogo	The growing of non-irrigated annual crops of forage/grain sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), forage sorghum ( <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> (aka <i>S. drumondii</i> ) 'Superdan 2' and 'Sprint'; <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> 'Pacific BMR' and 'Super Jumbo LPA'; and <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> 'Sugargraze' and 'Nectar') and maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> 'Pioneer 31H50') over a total permit area of 484 hectares composed of five lots with areas of 4 hectares, 190 hectares, 50 hectares, 100 hectares and 140 hectares respectively, identified as Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and A on the maps submitted as part of the application. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, hay baling, silage production, and stubble grazing. Sufficient stubble cover is to be maintained after harvesting to prevent soil erosion by wind. Excess fodder may be sold.	Current	28-Mar-11
Gogo	The growing of pumpkins ( <i>Cucurbita maxima</i> ), watermelons ( <i>Citrullus lanatu</i> ), rockmelons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> ) and mangoes ( <i>Mangifera</i> spp) over an area of 2 hectares as identified as Area B on the maps submitted as part of the application. The permitted crops may be irrigated using water piped from the existing bore located 1.5 kilometres north east of the permit area. Surplus produce may be sold.	Current	28-Mar-11

Gogo	Establishing two pivot irrigation systems covering 50ha each (with a surrounding 60ha buffer) and utilising borewater conveyed by pipe and earthen channels to irrigate Forage Sorghum ( <i>Sorghum vulgare</i> Pers [sweet sorghum]), Sudan Grass ( <i>Sorghum</i> ssp hybrid [sweet Sudan grass]), Maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L), Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> ), oats ( <i>Avena sativa</i> L – Tipan) and Cavalcade ( <i>Centrosema pascuorum</i> ) to supplement the cattle enterprise with high quality silage or hay. Material will be regularly cut and baled prior to or at flowering. Contour banks (where applicable) to minimise the risk of erosion will be installed within the total permit envelope of 1475ha, as will a pumping station, machinery and hay storage shed and silage pits, as identified on the map submitted as part of the application. Excess hay may be sold.	Current	16-Feb-10
Gogo	The growing of non-irrigated annual crops of forage sorghum (varieties 'Sweet Jumbo' and 'Sprint'), over a permit area of 723 hectares as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, hay baling, silage production, and stubble grazing. Sufficient stubble cover is to be maintained after harvesting to prevent soil erosion by wind. Excess fodder may be sold	Current	23-Aug-13
Kilto	The non-irrigated cultivation of sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ) and maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), over 495 hectares of the lease, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, silage production, grain harvesting and stubble grazing. Surplus fodder may be sold.	Current	18-Jul-11
Larrawa	The non-irrigated growing of sorghum ( <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> and <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> ) over 6 (six) hectares of the lease, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.	Current	21-Jun-11
Nita Downs	Irrigate a cell/rotational grazing area with a 40 ha centre pivot to fatten weaners using fine-stemmed Rhodes grass (perennial) <i>Chloris gayana</i> the Diploid variety Finecut. Fatten up to 400 weaners on 6-monthly cycles (800 head annually).	Cancelled	06-Feb-08
Nita Downs	Establishing and irrigating fine-stemmed perennial Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> ) Finecut variety with a 40ha pivot irrigation system, and cell/rotationally grazing weaner cattle in six monthly cycles, before trucking off-site for sale. The fodder may also be harvested (prior to seed maturity) for feeding out on the station or for sale. The following crops may also be grown within the permit area and the produce sold off-site: pumpkins ( <i>Cucurbita maxim</i> ), butternut pumpkins ( <i>Cucurbita moschate</i> ), Watermelons ( <i>Citrullus lanatu</i> ), rockmelons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> var. <i>cantalupensis</i> ), honeydew melons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> ), squash ( <i>Cucurbita</i> spp), sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>rugosa</i> ), bananas ( <i>Musa</i> spp), sweet potatoes ( <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> ), potatoes ( <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> ), beans ( <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> ), tomatoes ( <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> ) and onions ( <i>Allium cepa</i> ). The total permit area is 56ha enclosing a centre-pivot irrigated area of 40ha, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.	Superseded	28-Jan-10
Nita Downs	Establishing and irrigating fine-stemmed perennial Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> ) Finecut variety with a 40ha pivot irrigation system, and cell/rotationally grazing weaner cattle in six monthly cycles, before	Current	21-Nov-13

	trucking off-site for sale. The fodder may also be harvested (prior to seed maturity) for feeding out on the station or for sale. The following crops may also be grown within the permit area and the produce sold off-site: pumpkins ( <i>Cucurbita maxim</i> ), butternut pumpkins ( <i>Cucurbita moschate</i> ), Watermelons ( <i>Citrullus lanatu</i> ), rockmelons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> var. <i>cantalupensis</i> ), honeydew melons ( <i>Cucumis melo</i> ), squash ( <i>Cucurbita</i> spp), sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> var. <i>rugosa</i> ), bananas ( <i>Musa</i> spp), sweet potatoes ( <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> ), potatoes ( <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> ), beans ( <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> ), tomatoes ( <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> ) and onions ( <i>Allium cepa</i> ). The total permit area is 56ha enclosing a centre-pivot irrigated area of 40ha, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.		
Shamrock	1ha fodder crops trial	Expired	12-Aug-09
Shamrock	The growing of seeded and unseeded water melons ( <i>Citrullis vulgaris</i> ) over 100ha within an envelope of 200ha comprising 100ha cleared land divided into 10 plots of 10ha each, 20ha for tracks and equipment and 80ha buffer zones and natural vegetation, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application..	Cancelled	10-Jul-09
Shamrock	The growing of irrigated sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ) over 120ha within an envelope of 220ha comprising 120ha cleared land divided into four pivot areas of 30ha each and 100ha buffer zones and natural vegetation, as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application	Cancelled	24-Aug-10
Shamrock	The dryland cultivation of sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ) and sweet sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ) over a total of 2,000 hectares comprising 20 circular plots of 100 hectares each, all contained within a permit envelope of 2,725 hectares of the pastoral lease (Permit Area) as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.	Cancelled	30-May-11
Shamrock	The land described in the permit is only to be used for the nominated agricultural use of the land stated in the permit. The activity authorised under this permit is limited to the growing of irrigated sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ) over a total of 250ha comprising 50 pivot-irrigated areas of 5ha each, all contained within two permit envelopes having a total area of 7,220ha (Area A being 2,725ha and Area B being 4,495ha) as identified on the maps. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, silage production, grain harvesting and stubble grazing. Surplus fodder may be sold.	Cancelled	30-May-11
Shamrock	Growing of irrigated sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), forage/grain sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sweet sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sudan grass ( <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> (aka <i>S. drumondii</i> ), sorghum and sudan hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> ) and sweet sorghum hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> ) of 250ha of the pastoral lease, comprising 50 pivot-irrigated areas of 5ha each, all contained within two permit envelopes having a total area of 7,220ha (Area A being 2,725ha and Area B being 4,495ha) , as identified on the map(s) submitted as part of the application for the permit or as determined by the Board. Plant material may be used for direct grazing, silage production, grain harvesting and stubble grazing. Surplus fodder may be sold.	Current	20-May-13

Shamrock	The growing of seeded and unseeded water melons ( <i>Citrullis vulgaris</i> ), irrigated sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), forage/grain sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sweet sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sudan grass ( <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> (aka <i>S. drumondii</i> )), sorghum and sudan hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> ) and sweet sorghum hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> ) over 100ha within an envelope of 200ha comprising 100ha cleared land divided into 10 plots of 10ha each, 20ha for tracks and equipment and 80ha buffer zones and natural vegetation, as identified on the map(s) submitted as part of the application for the permit or as determined by the Board.	Current	20-May-13
Shamrock	The dry land cultivation of sweetcorn ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), forage/grain sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sweet sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> ), sudan grass ( <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> , aka <i>S. drumondii</i> ), sorghum x sudan hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> ) and sweet sorghum hybrids ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> ) over a total of 2,000 hectares of the pastoral lease, comprising 20 circular plots of 100 hectares each, all contained within a permit envelope of 2,725 hectares of the pastoral lease (Permit Area) as identified on the maps submitted as part of the application.	Current	20-May-13
Wallal Downs	The irrigated growing of sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> , <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> , <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> , <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> ), maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), forage oats ( <i>Avena sativa</i> ) and Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> ) over a total of 80 hectares, comprising two pivot-irrigated areas of 40 hectares each, with associated access tracks, hay and machinery sheds, all contained within a permit envelope of 90 hectares	Current	30-Sep-13
Wallal Downs	The irrigated growing of sorghum ( <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> , <i>Sorghum sudanense</i> , <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. sudanense</i> , <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i> ), maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> ), forage oats ( <i>Avena sativa</i> ) and Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> ) over a total of 188 hectares, comprising four pivot-irrigated areas, with associated irrigation infrastructure, access tracks, staff accommodation and machinery, storage and hay sheds, all contained within a permit envelope of 833 hectares (Permit Area)	Current	30-Sep-13