

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

tabled paper

Tuesday, 12 August 2014

1409. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to question on notice No. 1069, dated 9 April 2014, regarding the clearing of native vegetation on Kimberley pastoral leases, the part-reply to which was tabled on 17 June 2014 by the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Lands, and 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;
- (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) has there been any regional assessment of the potential cumulative environmental impacts of the native vegetation clearing activities as described above;
- (e) what is the Government's policy on approvals for large scale native vegetation clearing on pastoral leases in the Kimberley; and
- (f) 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?

Answer

- (a) For this analysis, the 'Kimberley region' is regarded to be the same as the 'Kimberley Land Division' as specified in Schedule 1 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*. Wallal Downs is located adjacent to the Kimberley Land Division, and has been included in the analysis. Assuming the Hon Member is referring to clearing of native vegetation for pastoral purposes, the answer is 8239.33 hectares and is broken down in years and pastoral leases.

[see tabled paper no].

- (b) Assuming the Hon Member is referring to clearing of native vegetation for pastoral purposes, in the past seven years, approximately 3211 hectares have been cleared on pastoral leases in the Kimberley Land Division. This information was obtained through the use of remote sensed images monitoring vegetation change. In the time available, it is not possible to determine whether clearing occurred through mechanical means, seasonal variation or as a result of climatic conditions or extreme weather events.

- (c) Section 51G of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* states that a clearing permit continues in force if it is an area permit, for 2 years, or if it is a purpose permit, for 5 years, from the date on which it is granted unless another period is specified.
- (d) The level of clearing in the Kimberley is proportionally very low compared with the amount of native vegetation remaining. The Department of Environment Regulation will continue to evaluate the level of clearing in the Kimberley and, should it be considered warranted, carry out an analysis of satellite imagery and other data to determine cumulative impacts.
- (e) Native vegetation clearing is managed in accordance with the Clearing Provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. In making a decision on a clearing permit application, the Chief Executive Officer must have regard to the clearing principles contained in Schedule 5 of the Act and any planning instrument or other relevant matter.
- (f) Impacts of native vegetation clearing to water are considered in the clearing principles contained in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Specifically clearing principles (i) and (j) state that native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water and or is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AJ' with a stylized flourish.

Tabled Paper for Legislative Council Question on Notice 1409

2014 (up to and including 20 August 2014)

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Yeeda	19.06.2014 - 19.07.2016	64
Mowanjum	16.07.2014 - 16.08.2019	76
Total		140

2013

Nil

2012

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Wallal downs	27.12.2012 - 31.12.2015	210
Total		210

2011

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Kilto	14.04.2011 - 09.05.2013	493.13
Country Downs	09.06.2011 - 04.07.2013	232.2
Shamrock	15.06.2011 - 11.07.2013	1900
Wallal Downs	03.11.2011 - 28.09.2016	25
Gogo	21.10.2011 - 14.11.2013	723
Yarrie	21.10.2011 - 14.11.2013	5
Total		3378.33

2010

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Gogo	07.01.2010 - 07.02.2015	100
Gogo	07.01.2010 - 07.02.2015	50
Gogo	07.01.2010 - 07.02.2015	190
Gogo	07.01.2010 - 07.02.2015	140
Nita Downs	26.08.2010 - 26.09.2015	350
Dampier Downs	02.12.2010 - 27.12.2015	194
Shamrock	05.08.2010 - 05.09.2012	300
Total		1324

2009

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Frazier Downs	13.08.2009 - 13.09.2011	120
Beefwood Park	27.08.2009 - 27.09.2011	592
Nita Downs	06.08.2009 - 04.01.2014	50
Total		762

2008

Property/station (pastoral lease)	Permit duration	Hectares approved
Liveringa	20.11.2008 - 20.12.2013	2425
Total		2425

2007

Nil