

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 21 June 2016

C580. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the clearing within a Threatened Ecological Community (Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales) at Lancelin by the Gingin Shire on 19 and 20 January 2016 and I ask:

- (1) Was a clearing approval sought to clear the Threatened Ecological Community under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*?
- (2) Was clearing approval obtained to clear the Threatened Ecological Community under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*?
- (3) If the clearing was not authorized has it been investigated?
- (4) If yes to (3), how much of the Threatened Ecological Community has been lost or compromised?
- (5) If yes to (3), will the Gingin Shire be prosecuted for unauthorized clearing?

Answer

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

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (1)-(2) Clearing of native vegetation for the purpose of firebreaks was undertaken in accordance with a 2015/2016 Firebreak Notice. This clearing was exempt from the requirement of a permit under Schedule 6 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Clearing of native vegetation that occurred adjacent to the firebreaks which included Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) of sedgeland was not exempt. A clearing permit had not been obtained for this clearing.

- (3) The Department of Environment Regulation is investigating the clearing that was not exempt under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- (4) Department of Parks and Wildlife advice outlined that four out of the five occurrences of the sedgeland TECs at this location have been impacted by the clearing and associated activities.
- (5) The Department of Environment Regulation has not finalised the investigation into this matter.

AG