

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Tuesday, 25 June 2019**

**C672. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment**

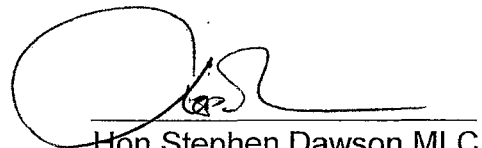
I refer to the land clearing at Yakka Munga Station by Shanghai Zenith Investment Holding Pty Ltd and ask:

1. Is the Minister aware that by clearing land at Yakka Munga, and engaging in ground-disturbing works without a permit, Shanghai Zenith are in breach of *The Environmental Protection Act 1986*?
2. If no to (1), why not?
3. Is the Minister aware that by clearing land at Yakka Munga, without possessing authority to do so, Shanghai Zenith are in breach of *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Commonwealth)*?
4. If no to (3), why not?
5. Considering the reaction to this land clearing, will the Minister build on the stop work order he issued, and work towards changing laws and regulations so that land clearing of this nature becomes harder to commit?
6. As a result of ground disturbing works undertaken without a permit, will prosecution be undertaken?

---

**Answer**

- 1-2. I am aware that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is currently investigating the circumstances of the clearing at Yakka Munga Station.
- 3-4. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is administered by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy. Investigators from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation have advised the Department of the Environment and Energy of the activities undertaken at Yakka Munga Station.
5. The clearing of native vegetation is already an offence unless done under a clearing permit or the clearing is for an exempt purpose under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
6. The investigation by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation into the clearing is ongoing. Once finalised, the most appropriate enforcement response will be determined in accordance with the Department's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT;  
DISABILITY SERVICES; ELECTORAL AFFAIRS**