

STATE FORESTS 2, 12, 16, 38, 55 AND 57

Partial Revocation of Dedication - Statement by Parliamentary Secretary

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.44 pm]: This statement concerns the proposed partial revocation of state forests 2, 12, 16, 38, 55 and 57. This state forest revocation proposes to partially revoke the dedication of six state forests. The total area proposed to be revoked from these state forests is about 62.5 hectares. The five proposals in this motion all relate to requests for the dedication, realignment or widening of existing roads. For ease of identification, the five areas have been numbered. Areas 1 to 3 are proposals from Main Roads WA, whilst areas 4 and 5 are shire road proposals. Apart from area 3, the roadworks have already occurred; consequently, no further clearing is required regarding areas 1, 2, 4 and 5. The planned dedication of those areas as roads will simply regularise the situation that exists on the ground. There are many examples of roads having been constructed in state forests outside the formal survey provided for them. The reasons for this vary, but often the formal survey may not be the most practical alignment when it comes to actually building a road. Contingent upon the revocations proceeding, several areas of largely uncleared road reserve are to be closed and added to the forest estate. The potential gain in that regard is about 10 hectares.

Area 1: This area comprises several portions of state forests 2 and 12 that are required to formally realign part of Bussell Highway between Capel and Busselton. The realignment is known as the Ludlow deviation. The actual roadworks were carried out in the early 1990s after negotiations and correspondence between Main Roads WA and the then Department of Conservation and Land Management. After the road construction was completed, survey plans were prepared for Main Roads showing the areas of state forest required to formalise the new alignment of the highway. However, the relevant survey plans were received only recently by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The areas proposed for revocation from state forests 2 and 12 total 9.5031 hectares and 37.7610 hectares respectively.

Area 2: This area concerns the excision of 3.1110 hectares from state forest 16. The area involved is situated approximately 12 kilometres north east of Myalup and is required to formally widen part of Old Coast Road, also known as the Perth-Bunbury highway. In 1993, the then Department for Conservation and Land Management agreed to a request from Main Roads WA for several strips of state forest to be made available for the construction of a dual carriageway on sections of Old Coast Road. The road construction subsequently occurred, followed later by excision from state forest 16 of most of the areas involved. Until recently, the need to also excise the area now under consideration was overlooked by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

Area 3: Main Roads WA has requested that certain portions of state forest 38 and 55 be excised in order to widen a section of Muirs Highway situated approximately 30 kilometres south east of Manjimup. This request is part of the major Main Roads project to progressively upgrade narrow sections of Muirs Highway. The planned widening and realignments undertaken during the project will improve road safety. Main Roads commissioned the preparation of an environmental impact assessment and environmental management plan in connection with this proposal. The plan is acceptable to the Conservation Commission and the Department of Environment and Conservation. The total areas proposed for excision from state forests 38 and 55 are about 4.3 hectares and about 1.8 hectares respectively. Main Roads has programmed the roadworks for the coming summer but the land must be excised from state forest before any roadworks occur. Surveying of the land requirements is currently being undertaken. Contingent upon the excisions occurring, Main Roads has offered to close an extra wide, mostly uncleared portion of the existing survey for Muirs Highway so that it can be added to adjoining state forest 38. The potential addition is about 8.9 hectares.

Area 4: An area of about 1.8 hectares is proposed for excision from state forest 55 to allow the dedication of part of Radburn Road between Muirs Highway and Strachan townsite, reserve 38291. The area involved is situated approximately 32 kilometres south east of Manjimup. Radburn Road has provided informal access to several houses on reserve 38291 for many years. The proposed excision and subsequent dedication of this portion of Radburn Road will facilitate plans by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to call expressions of interest in connection with the future management of reserve 38291.

Area 5: In 2006 parliamentary approval was given to excise a total area of 33.0863 hectares from state forests 35 and 57 so that a 14-kilometre section of Graphite Road could be dedicated. That excision was finalised in September last year. Shortly thereafter the Department for Planning and Infrastructure requested the excision of some further portions of state forest 57. They are required to formally widen an adjacent section of Graphite Road. The portions of state forest now being sought have a combined area of 4.2358 hectares and are situated approximately 28 kilometres south east of Nannup. The portion of Graphite Road under consideration forms the southern boundary of a proposed conservation park - area ID 176 in "Forest Management Plan 2004-2013". If

this excision occurs, what will become a superfluous portion of the existing survey for Graphite Road will be closed for inclusion into the adjoining state forest 57 proposed conservation park. The area to be gained in that regard is 0.9823 hectares.

All five proposals have the support of the Forest Products Commission. They have also been endorsed by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, the vesting body for state forests. I recommend this revocation proposal to the house and ask members to support it.

[See paper 3576.]

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Bruce Donaldson**.