

FOREST MANAGEMENT — REVIEW FINDINGS

5568. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

In the light of the Environmental Protection Authority's findings in its review of the 'Forest Management Plan Mid-term Audit of Performance Report' by the Conservation Commission that there is considerable doubt and increasing uncertainty about the maintenance of forest values in the low and medium rainfall zones, and that, because of the impact of declining rainfall, increasing temperatures and threats from diseases and pests, the jarrah forest in the low and adjacent medium rainfall areas is unlikely to continue to contribute to the jarrah sustained yield and also be consistent with ecologically sustainable forest management, can the Minister provide, for each of the three forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren) the following information relating to projections for each forest block, compartment and coupe —

- (1) Maps (showing major rivers, towns and forest blocks) at a scale 1:100,000 depicting the 1100mm, 900mm and 600mm isohyets?
- (2) Maps (showing major rivers, towns and forest blocks) at a scale of 1:100,000 depicting the projected isohyets for 2023, or closest available year?
- (3) Maps (showing major rivers, towns and forest blocks) at a scale 1:50,000 depicting boundaries of State forest and timber reserve forest blocks, compartments and coupes and the year of most recent regeneration in each coupe?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1)–(3) Significant resources would be needed to generate the suite of maps at the scales requested, and relevant Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) staff are engaged in the priority task of developing the next forest management plan. In light of these considerations, information is provided as follows:

Preparation of the next forest management plan will be informed by the climate change severity scenarios developed by CSIRO as outlined in *Climate Change in Australia — Technical Report 2007*, available at <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/index.php>.

DEC is using the 1960 to 1990 information as the baseline against which the CSIRO scenarios are compared. Information regarding land categories and climate change will be available via the draft forest management plan which will be released for public comment later this year.