

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BIODIVERSITY PLANNING GUIDELINES

6408. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning

Noting that the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for the Perth Metropolitan Region clearly states that ‘To ensure that Local Governments invest appropriately in local biodiversity planning, it is essential that the relevant parts of Strategies are endorsed by both the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Government’s environmental agencies’, I ask —

- (1) Which local government authorities have completed local biodiversity strategies and incorporated these strategies into their town planning schemes?
- (2) For local government authorities which have not completed local biodiversity strategies and incorporated these strategies into their town planning schemes, can the Minister provide the following information about each council’s activities in this regard —
 - (a) does the council intend to complete a local biodiversity strategy;
 - (b) what is the timeframe for completion;
 - (c) does the council intend to incorporate this strategy into its town planning scheme;
 - (d) if yes to (c), when; and
 - (e) if no to (c), why not?
- (3) What assistance or support is being provided by the Minister’s department and agencies to these councils to assist them with the process of completing the strategy?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) A total of 14 local governments have Council endorsed local biodiversity strategies.
Two are in the process of incorporating local biodiversity conservation provisions into their local planning schemes: Shire of Mundaring and City of Wanneroo. Three are in the process of incorporating relevant components of their local biodiversity strategies into their local planning strategies: Shire of Chittering, Shire of Kalamunda and Shire of Mundaring. Two have adopted a local planning policy to assist implementation of their local biodiversity strategies: City of Wanneroo and Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale. Other local governments have adopted local biodiversity strategies but have not necessarily incorporated relevant components into land use planning. These include the City of Greater Geraldton, the City of Stirling, the City of Armadale, the City of Joondalup, the Town of Bassendean, the City of Bayswater, the City of Belmont, the City of Kwinana, and the City of Swan.
- (2) Three other local governments have each commenced the preparation of a local biodiversity strategy in accordance with the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines.
The City of Rockingham and the City of Mandurah
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) It is expected that the local biodiversity strategies will be completed in 2013.
 - (c) Each intends to incorporate relevant components of its local biodiversity strategy into its local planning strategy and/or a local planning policy, which will guide decisions under its local planning scheme.
 - (d) Incorporation into the local planning strategy and/or local planning policy will occur following completion of the local biodiversity strategies in 2013.
 - (e) Not applicable.The Shire of Murray
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) It is expected that the local biodiversity strategy will be completed in 2013.
 - (c) It is anticipated that new local land use planning provisions for biodiversity consideration will be proposed into its new local planning scheme.
 - (d) The timing of the Shire’s local planning strategy and scheme is subject to the completion of the Strategic Assessment for the Perth and Peel Regions and the Southern Metropolitan Perth and Peel Sub-regional Structure Plan.
 - (e) Not applicable.

- (3) The Department of Planning is supporting the Western Australian Local Government Association with the delivery of the 'Local Government Biodiversity Program', which is primarily funded through the State Natural Resource Management Program. The Department is entering into an agreement with the Association for the provision of technical assistance to local government authorities who are preparing local biodiversity strategies and integrating biodiversity into local planning strategies, schemes, policies and structure plans.

The Department has supported the Association and local governments with local biodiversity planning over the past decade, through the implementation of Bush Forever, the Perth and South West Biodiversity Projects, and the EnviroPlanning Program.