

BEEDELUP NATIONAL PARK — LOG REMOVAL

940. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to an incident on 9 November 2010 involving the removal of logs from Beedelup National Park near Pemberton.

- (1) When did the Department of Environment and Conservation first become aware of the incident?
- (2) When did DEC investigate the incident?
- (3) Were the police involved in the investigation; and, if so, to what extent?
- (4) Were any interviews conducted during the course of the investigation; and, if so, with whom and by whom?
- (5) Did the police provide DEC with any advice about any course of action in relation to the incident?
- (6) How much timber was removed from the national park?
- (7) What vehicles and equipment were used to remove the timber, and where is the timber now?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Environment has provided the following response —

- (1) The question refers to an incident on 9 November 2010. That was the date on which a complainant wrote to the minister reporting an incident that occurred on 29 August 2010. The Department of Environment and Conservation became aware of the incident when the complainant reported it to DEC's Pemberton office on 30 August 2010.
- (2) DEC commenced an investigation immediately.
- (3)–(4) Yes. The police involvement included a joint visit with DEC to the property where the logs were stacked, and interviewing the property owner.
- (5) On the recommendation of the police, and after consideration in the context of DEC's enforcement and prosecution policy, DEC issued a caution notice to the property owner.
- (6) The timber was in 20 separate pieces, totalling approximately three tonnes. The timber had been cut and removed from trees previously cleared by DEC for road maintenance in preparation for a prescribed burn.
- (7) The complainant told DEC that a small truck and tractor were used. The property owner was allowed to retain the timber. It was of low quality and volume, and although DEC explored alternative uses to which the timber could be put, none were practical or made economic sense.