

LAND CLEARING — STOCK GRAZING IN REMNANT BUSHLAND

398. Hon GIZ WATSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the report in the Department of Agriculture and Food “Agricultural Memo: Northern Agricultural Region”, volume 11, of March 2007, at page 27, which states —

Grazing stock in remnant bushland is considered as clearing land and therefore is governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1986 . . .

- (1) What monitoring is being done to ensure that pastoralist companies and individuals are not engaging in land clearing by grazing stock in remnant bushland?
- (2) Has action been taken or have any prosecutions been made against pastoralist companies and/or individuals who have engaged in land clearing by grazing stock in remnant bushland under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986?
- (3) If yes to (2), will the minister please provide the details?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank Hon Giz Watson for some notice of this question, to which the minister has provided an answer in the following terms —

- (1) The Department of Environment and Conservation undertakes analysis of vegetation changes using Landsat satellite imagery and conducts subsequent follow-up inspections and investigations where appropriate. The department also investigates complaints reported by the community. It should be noted that an exemption from the requirement for a clearing permit exists to allow a pastoral lessee to graze stock on a pastoral lease in accordance with the Land Administration Act 1997, the terms and conditions of the pastoral lease and any relevant condition or determination by the Pastoral Lands Board.
- (2) None of the prosecutions undertaken to date involves clearing by grazing. A number of active investigations of grazing are underway.
- (3) Not applicable.