

PERTH URBAN BUSHLAND — MANAGEMENT

7395. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment

In relation to management of Perth Metropolitan area urban bushland, I ask:

- (a) how much money is spent on fire control through prescribed burning across the areas managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC);
- (b) Does the answer to (a) include an estimate of the value of volunteer time;
- (c) If no to (b), what is the estimated value of the volunteer time;
- (d) how much money is spent on weed control across the areas managed by the DEC;
- (e) does the answer to (d) include an estimate of the value of volunteer time;
- (f) if no to (e), what is the estimated value of the volunteer time;
- (g) does DEC do analysis on fire risk reduction achieved through investment in weed control compared with prescribed burning, if no, why not?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

The following figures relate to 2010/11 expenditure for work undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation within the Perth Metropolitan Regional Scheme (MRS) boundary, and include payroll and on-costs, and associated operational costs, but excluding associated planning costs.

- (a) \$492 000
- (b) No
- (c) \$3 800
- (d) \$352 500
- (e) No
- (f) \$400 000
- (g) No. Weed control is generally undertaken to prevent establishment and/or spread of weeds due to their impact on biodiversity values or neighbours. It is not usually undertaken for fuel management purposes but, where weed control has a significant impact on fuel levels, the priority for prescribed burning or other fuel management strategies may be altered accordingly..