

PASTORAL LEASES — KIMBERLEY

1069. Hon Robin Chapple to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Lands:

Regarding the clearing of native vegetation on Kimberley pastoral leases, I ask:

- (a) for each of the past seven years, how many hectares of native vegetation clearing has been approved for pastoral leases in the Kimberley region, on a property by property basis:
 - (i) what is the total amount of water use expected as a result of these clearing approvals;
- (b) how many hectares of native vegetation have actually been cleared on pastoral leases in the Kimberley in the past seven years, including but not limited to Liveringa, GoGo, Wallal Downs and Kilty stations;
- (c) for how long after granting do clearing approvals remain valid;
- (d) for each approved clearing, how many megalitres of water are expected to be used for resulting agricultural activity, including for hay growing, stock watering and pasture irrigation;
- (e) has there been any regional assessment of the potential cumulative environmental impacts of the native vegetation clearing and water use activities set out above;
- (f) how does this clearing of native vegetation comply with the environmental requirements of the *Land Administration Act 1997* in relation to pastoral leases;
- (g) is the Government aware of any plans for further large scale native vegetation clearing on any pastoral leases in the Kimberley;
- (h) what is the Government's policy on approvals for large scale native vegetation clearing on pastoral leases in the Kimberley;
- (i) does the Government have any policy on limiting the extent and impact of native vegetation clearing and the resultant increased surface and groundwater water use in the Kimberley:
 - (i) if no to (i), why not;
- (j) how many pastoral lease holders have received diversification permits for land clearing in order to grow crops in the Kimberley during the past seven years;
- (k) will the Minister detail each diversification permit:
 - (i) if no to (k), why not; and
- (l) have the land clearing and crop growing activities over the past seven years triggered the future acts provision under the *Native Title Act 1993*:
 - (i) if yes to (l), will the Minister detail which proposals have triggered the future acts provision of the *Native Title Act 1993*; and
 - (ii) if no to (l)(i), why not?

Hon Col Holt replied:

- (a) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
 - (i) Please refer this question to the Minister for Water
- (b) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (c) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (d) Please refer this question to the Minister for Water
- (e) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Water
- (f) Under Section 117 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* the Pastoral Lands Board must not issue a Part 7 Division 5 Permit unless it is satisfied that any requirements in relation to the proposal arising from the operation of legislation relating to environmental conservation which is applicable to the land under the lease have been complied with. Any Permit applications are referred to the agencies administering such legislation, including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Department of Environment Regulation and the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (g) Two applications for permits under Part 7 Division 5 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* in the Kimberley that include the clearing of native vegetation are currently under assessment:
- (h) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment

- (i) Please refer this question to the Minister for Environment
- (j) In the last seven years the Pastoral Lands Board has issued **zero** Part 7 Division 5 Permits to clear land in the Kimberley under section 118 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*. In the last seven years the Pastoral Lands Board has issued twenty four (24) Part 7 Division 5 Permits for non-pastoral agricultural use in the Kimberley under section 120 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.
- (k) Part 7 Division 5 Permits for non-pastoral agricultural use in the Kimberley under section 120 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* as per the attached table [See tabled paper 1526.]
 - (i) Not applicable
- (l) Yes
 - (i) Future act provisions under the *Native Title Act 1997* apply to all instances where Part 7 Division 5 Permits are required, including all of the permits for non-pastoral agricultural activity listed under (k).
 - (ii) Not applicable.