

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION — LAND CLEARING DECISIONS

781. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment

- (1) Since 6 September 2008, how many hectares of land has the Department of Environment and Conservation:
- (a) received area clearing permit applications for;
 - (b) received purpose permit clearing applications for;
 - (c) approved for clearing by way of an area permit;
 - (d) approved for clearing by way of a purpose permit;
 - (e) refused for clearing by way of an area permit;
 - (f) refused for clearing by way of a purpose permit;
 - (g) received notification of possible illegal land clearing; and
 - (h) begun prosecution for illegal land clearing?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1) Between 6 September 2008 and 20 May 2009 the Department of Environment and Conservation:
- (a) received 149 area permit applications to clear 3,025 hectares.
 - (b) received 139 purpose permit applications to clear 3,799 hectares.
 - (c) granted 104 area permit applications to clear 3,634 hectares. This included a single permit to plant native pasture on a degraded area of 2,425 hectares for pastoral activities in the West Kimberley area.
 - (d) granted 127 purpose permit applications to clear 2,134 hectares. This included six permits to clear 497 hectares for mining activities which were outside of the scope of the delegation of the Department of Mines and Petroleum. A further 22 permits for 764 hectares were granted for the purpose of silvicultural thinning. Conditions on permits for silviculture do not permit the permanent clearing of the understorey and require the retention of a minimum basal area.
 - (e) refused 27 area permit applications for 729 hectares.
 - (f) refused one purpose permit application for 29 hectares.
 - (g) received 146 complaints of unlawful clearing of native vegetation. Of the 146 complaints, 69 provided an estimate of area of clearing totalling 1,269 hectares. Complaints may not be accurate or able to be substantiated.
 - (h) initiated five prosecutions for unlawful clearing of 404 hectares of native vegetation.