

STATE FORESTS 4 AND 65

Partial Revocation of Dedication — Motion

HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan — Minister for Environment) [4.48 pm]: I move —

That the proposal for the partial revocation of state forests 4 and 65 laid on the table of the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 10 November 2009 be carried out, and invite the Legislative Assembly to agree to a similar resolution.

The state forest revocation proposal that has been tabled affects state forests 4 and 65. The total area proposed to be revoked is about 166.2 hectares. Area 1 comprises several portions of state forest 4, with a combined area of about 165 hectares.

In March 2009, the state government announced plans for the establishment of a new industrial park at Shotts, about eight kilometres east of Collie. A Shotts steering committee was formed under the auspices of the South West Development Commission in the 1990s. The committee comprised representatives of government and private sector stakeholders. It was instrumental in preparing a business case for the project, which has subsequently been endorsed by government.

The area earmarked to become an industrial park is shown bordered red on the locality plan attached to the revocation proposal. Within that area there is a mix of land tenures comprising portions of state forest 4 either side of the railway line—about 165 hectares in total; lot 2 on diagram 62426—34.1843 hectares—in certificate of title volume 1634 folio 502 held by the conservation and land management executive body; and private property, reserves and unallocated crown land—about 35 hectares altogether—in the Shotts town site. LandCorp is coordinating the land assembly process. The Department of State Development has been charged with facilitating the development of a urea manufacturing plant on about 140 hectares at the western end of the industrial park. The portion of state forest 4 to be included in the industrial park has already been subject to considerable disturbance. It is dissected by a railway, several roads, transmission lines, coal conveyors and water supply pipelines. High-impact dieback sites and a large sand mine are within the area. Approval to rezone the land through an amendment to the town planning scheme has been approved by the Shire of Collie, which has referred the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment prior to advertising. Additionally, a referral to the commonwealth has been made under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The proposed revocation has the support of the Department of Regional Development and Lands, the Forest Products Commission, the Department of Mines and Petroleum and the Shire of Collie. Other stakeholders, including mining companies that hold tenements over the area, are also supportive.

Area 2 involves the excision of a small portion of state forest 65, situated approximately six kilometres west of Ellenbrook. The Water Corporation has requested the excision for a water booster pump station next to Gngangara Road, Lexia. A locality plan showing the area of state forest involved and the tenure of the surrounding land is attached to the revocation proposal. The portion of state forest 65 under consideration has been surveyed and can now be described as lot 3 000 on deposited plan 50674, with an area of about 1.2 hectares. A 20-metre-wide strip adjacent to Gngangara Road has been included in lot 3 000 to cater for the potential future widening of Gngangara Road. The balance of lot 3 000 is required by the Water Corporation for the booster pump station site to help maintain adequate water supply levels to Ellenbrook.

Lot 3 000 is degraded due to past disturbance. It is almost devoid of native species. There were several pine trees on the eastern edge of lot 3 000, but these have been removed by the Forest Products Commission. If the proposed excision goes ahead, it is intended that lot 3 000 be set aside as a reserve for the purpose of the booster water pump station and road widening and placed under the care, control and management of the Water Corporation. The Water Corporation has been issued with an interim lease so that site works can occur whilst the excision process is undertaken. A clearing permit has been granted that allows the Water Corporation to clear no more than 0.1323 hectares of native vegetation within lot 3 000. The WA Planning Commission has approved a development application for the site. The proposed excision was referred to the Forest Products Commission, the then Department of Industry and Resources, the Department of Water, the then Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the City of Swan for comment. There were no objections. The Department of Water requested the observance of some conditions for the construction and operation of the booster pump station, and these conditions have been conveyed to the Water Corporation. The former Department for Planning and Infrastructure arranged for a taking order signed by the Minister for Lands to be registered at Landgate on 21 January 2008. The purpose of this order is to take all interests in the land so that it can be set aside as the intended reserve. The Conservation Commission of Western Australia, the vesting body for state forest, has endorsed both the proposed revocations. I recommend this revocation proposal to the house.

Adjournment of Debate

Extract from *Hansard*

[COUNCIL - Tuesday, 24 November 2009]

p9539b-9541a

Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Dr Sally Talbot; Hon Simon O'Brien

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [4.53 pm]: Mr President, I seek your guidance on this. I understood that the usual practice in the case of a motion that becomes an order of the day is that the minister reads the statement, and it then becomes an order of the day for the next day's sitting.

The PRESIDENT: I understand there is no requirement, but it has been the convention, you are quite right. If Hon Sally Talbot moves to adjourn the debate, that may be the best way forward.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: I will give an explanation of why that suits us more than proceeding today. It may have been an oversight on my part, perhaps on the part of the minister or on the part of the officers who briefed us. I had understood that the revocation the minister wants passed fairly urgently—we share that view—is the revocation of state forest 4 for the Collie Shotts industrial park. We have had an extensive briefing on that, and I am happy to proceed with it. However, we have not had a briefing on the revocation of state forest 65. My proposition is either that we adjourn and try to get a briefing on that before tomorrow, or that I move an amendment to delete the words “and 65”, in which case I am very happy to proceed with the motion straightaway.

Hon Simon O'Brien: By interjection, would it be sufficient to proceed with it at a later stage of this day's sitting, or would you prefer to put it off until tomorrow?

Hon Ken Travers: Defer it to a later stage.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: We need a briefing.

Hon Ken Travers: If we cannot deal with it today, we can put it off until tomorrow.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: I move —

That the order of the day be adjourned to a later stage of this day's sitting.

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport) [4.55 pm]: The government is happy to comply. I think it is the best way ahead. Sometimes these matters tend to collide at this time of the year. We will support the motion to adjourn to a later stage of this day's sitting, secure in the knowledge that, if at some later stage it is still not ready, it will simply come on tomorrow. In any event, I will call it tomorrow if it is not dealt with today.

Hon Ken Travers: See how smoothly the house runs when you are looking after the show!

The PRESIDENT: Order! That was a procedural motion on which I erred because there was to be no debate on the motion.

Question put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned until a later stage of the sitting.

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