

CONSERVATION ESTATE

7104. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

In relation to the reservation of ecosystems for the formation of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, I ask:

- (a) since the formation of the Barnett Government in September 2008, how many hectares of land have been added to the conservation estate;
- (b) to which biogeographical regions have additions been made since September 2008;
- (c) how much money has been spent on additions to the conservation estate; and
- (d) how many hectares have been added to the conservation estate by transferring land from other forms of public ownership?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (a) 231 409 hectares have been added to the conservation reserve system as national park, nature reserve, conservation park or land reserved under section 5(1)(h) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.
- (b) Additions have been made in the following bioregions defined by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia: Avon Wheatbelt, Carnarvon, Dampierland, Esperance Plains, Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest, Mallee, Pilbara, Swan Coastal Plain, Victoria Bonaparte, Warren and Yalgoo.
- (c) \$11 398 500 has been spent on acquiring 34 properties for addition to the conservation estate. Of the 34 purchases, 17 (at a cost of \$6 238 000) were funded by development proponents as environmental offsets, the Commonwealth Government assisted with three purchases (\$382 000), and the remaining amount was funded through the State Government.
- (d) 224 482 hectares of the area identified in (a) were from forms of public ownership, including unallocated Crown land and land held by State Government agencies.