

DIVISION 67: ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION —

[Supplementary Information No B1.]

Question: Mr D.A. Templeman referred to page 817 Major Spending Changes showing \$5,547,000 for Voluntary Severance and asked how many voluntary severances did this fund, where they occurred and how many staff were involved with respect to Sustainable Forest Management. In addition Mr Templeman referred to page 821 for Sustainable Forest Management showing the 2008-09 Actual was 326 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) employees, the 2009-10 Budget was 241 FTE and the 2009-10 Estimated Actual is 324 FTE, and the 2010-11 Budget Target is 329 FTE. He asked for the explanation for the significant variation of the 2009-10 Budget FTE relative to the other FTE figures for Sustainable Forest Management.

Answer: The number of severances involved with respect to each service was:

Nature Conservation	16
Sustainable Forest Management	10
Parks and Visitor Services	16
Environmental Regulation	4
Environmental Sustainability	5
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	1
Total	52

The 2008-09 Actual, 2009-10 Estimated Actual and 2010-11 Budget Target for Sustainable Forest Management include the cost and number of employees required for bushfire suppression. In this respect the figures are not comparable with the 2009-10 Budget which did not provide full funding of bushfire suppression. In the past bushfire suppression has been funded from supplementary funds. This is the reason for both the Net Cost of Service and FTE figures for the 2009-10 Budget being significantly less than the figures in the other three columns. On page 817 a Major Spending Change is the provision of increased funding for Bushfire Suppression in 2009-10 and future years. Funding of bushfire suppression at the beginning of the year from the appropriation instead of funding at the end of the year from supplementary funds will ensure that the figures for each year are presented on a comparable basis in Budget Statements next year and in future years.

[Supplementary Information No B2.]

Question: Mr D.A. Templeman referred to the services provided by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) for the Forest Products Commission (FPC) and sought further information on the cost of each component of the work that DEC does for the FPC.

Answer: The cost of each component of the services provided by DEC for FPC in 2008/09 was:

Native forests	\$
Fire protection	78,596
Fire silviculture	1,150,000
Forest silviculture	247,404
Forest monitoring	225,000
Geographic information services	151,000
Inventory	1,737,250
Total for native forest	3,589,250
Plantations	\$
Fire protection	3,183,980
Silviculture	308,770
Inventory	182,000
Library services	25,000
Total for plantations	3,699,750
Total for native forests and plantations	\$7,289,000

[Supplementary Information No B3.]

Question: Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan referred to the proposed FPC timber harvest operation in Mundlimup forest block near Jarrahdale and sought detail as to the work that has been agreed to be provided by DEC for FPC and the rate at which that work will be charged in relation to the proposed operation.

Mr David Templeman; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Chris Tallentire

Answer: To date DEC has undertaken services for FPC to prepare timber harvest base maps, mapping of occurrence of dieback, preparation of other map products to support coupe level planning such as road layout, analysis of background information of forest values to support public consultation by the FPC, and the finalisation of the location of a fauna habitat zones. The service is provided by DEC to FPC on a cost recovery basis, accounted for on staff costs, direct costs and overheads.

[Supplementary Information No B4.]

Question: Mr D.A. Templeman referred to the Great Western Woodlands project (second dot point on page 818 and capital component shown at page 824) and asked to be provided with the overall recurrent and capital budgets for this project.

Answer: The Government has committed \$3.8 million to develop and implement an integrated Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands to better manage and protect the region and to ensure the long-term conservation of the unique natural and cultural values of the area. Total funding of \$M3.8 has been provided and is allocated as follows:

Great Western Woodlands	2009-10 \$M	2010-11 \$M	2011-12 \$M	2012-13 \$M	2013-14 \$M	Total \$M
Recurrent (Nature Conservation Service)	0.400	0.800	0.900	0.900		3.000
Capital		0.200	0.300	0.300		0.800
Total	0.400	1.000	1.200	1.200		3.800

[Supplementary Information No B5.]

Question: Mr M.J. Cowper asked where DEC fitted into the whole scheme of monitoring the big industries. The Minister offered to provide the locations of the air monitoring stations that DEC had jurisdiction over.

Answer: The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) operates and maintains a fixed ambient air quality monitoring network to assess and inform regional air quality management and report against the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure standards and goals.

DEC's thirteen permanent fixed ambient air quality monitoring stations operated during 2009-10 are located in the following locations: Albany; Bunbury; Busselton; Caversham; Collie; Duncraig; Geraldton; Quinns Rock; Rockingham; Rolling Green; South Lake; Swanbourne; and Wattleup.

DEC has also undertaken additional air quality monitoring to assess the impact of individual or cumulative emissions sources during 2009-10. These investigations have resulted in campaign monitoring sites being installed in: Calista; Cookernup; Gosnells; Hillman; and Yarloop.

The street address and Australian Map Grid Coordinates for DEC Fixed Ambient Air Monitoring Sites¹ are provided in the below table.

Permanent DEC Fixed Monitoring Sites (13)				
Monitoring Site	Address	AMG N	AMG E	Finish
Albany	Lockyer Ave	6125350	581100	
Bunbury	Paisley St	6309877	373613	
Busselton	Kent St	6275479	347041	
Caversham	De Burgh Rd	6472731	403139	
Collie	Wittenoom St	6308348	420506	
Duncraig	Doveridge Dr	6478013	384677	
Geraldton	Eighth St	6815097	268701	
Quinns Rock	Quinns Rd	6494374	376271	
Rockingham	Governor Rd	6429605	381989	
Rolling Green	Toodyay Rd	6492988	435291	
South Lake	Barrine Gdns	6446565	389929	
Swanbourne	West Coast Hwy	6463624	382868	
Wattleup	Tomislav Pl	6439075	386537	

¹ The stations that have their name in *italics* (with a *) will not be in operation for the entire year. These stations have been accounted for as a percentage to come up with a total of 16 air monitoring stations for the year to calculate the 'average cost per station'.

Mr David Templeman; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Chris Tallentire

Campaign DEC Fixed Monitoring Sites (5)				
Monitoring Site	Address	AMG N	AMG E	Finish
<i>Calista*</i>	Gilmore Ave	6431756	388034	
<i>Cookernup*</i>	Riverdale Rd	6348631	396206	Dec 09
<i>Gosnells*</i>	Lumen Christie College	6446574	389940	Sept 09
<i>Hillman*</i>	Unnarro St	6427504	383362	
<i>Yarloop*</i>	Wickham St	6356363	397834	Sept 09

The National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure requires each State or Territory to undertake monitoring according to a specified protocol. After adopting the Measure, the National Environment Protection Council (now Environment Protection and Heritage Council) resolved to establish a Peer Review Committee (PRC) to advise on jurisdictional monitoring plans. The PRC developed a series of strategy papers that provide a basis for the preparation of individual monitoring plans by jurisdictions. The following extract from a PRC Strategy paper entitled Monitoring Strategy (PRC, 2000) provides the rationale for locating performance monitoring stations.

In order to ensure equivalent protection for the overall population of a region, stations will generally be located so as to monitor the upper bound of the distribution of pollutant concentration likely to be experienced by portions of the population, while avoiding the direct impacts of localised pollutant sources. These generally representative upper bound for community exposure (GRUB) stations will be distributed to measure the upper bound concentrations in different portions of the populated area, reflecting different emission or dispersion regimes.

An examination of the distribution of GRUB stations relative to the distribution of population and pollutant will determine the need for, and location of, additional stations to achieve adequate representation of population-average concentrations.

By using GRUB stations to monitor the ambient air across a region, we can be reasonably sure that, if the NEPM Standards are met at those sites, then most of the total population of the region will be exposed to air that meets the Standards. In this way, the NEPC aim of equivalent environmental protection is assured.

The location of the permanent fixed ambient air quality monitoring stations aims to be consistent with the PRC guidance.

[Supplementary Information No B6.]

Question: Mr F.M. Logan inquired where mobile air quality monitoring equipment has been used over the past 12 months; and in particular if it has been in and around the Kwinana area and Cockburn Cement.

Answer: The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) took delivery of a custom manufactured mobile air quality monitoring transportable building in July 2009. Once delivered there has been a requirement for the station to be fitted out with electrical and high precision air pollutant monitoring equipment.

Although not mobile, DEC has undertaken periodic campaign air quality monitoring in specific areas of Perth to assess the impact of individual or cumulative emissions sources during 2009-10. Campaign monitoring sites have been installed in Calista, Cookernup, Gosnells, Hillman and Yarloop.

The campaign air monitoring sites at Hillman (the Hillman Child Health Centre) and Calista (Calista Primary School) were chosen in consultation with community and industry representatives. The sites were installed in May 2009 and monitoring has continued since then, collecting data on particles (both total suspended particles, and PM_{2.5} being particle matter that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller), nitrogen oxides concentrations, wind direction, wind speed, temperature and relative humidity.

[Supplementary Information No B7.]

Question: Mr C.J. Tallentire referred to the first line item on page 820 and asked in regard to the breakdown of inert and putrescibles waste, what was the amount that was projected to go to both those waste streams in future years.

Answer: This line item refers to overall recycling rates, not waste streams. The total waste diversion rate is not determined according to whether the waste is putrescible or inert. The diversion rate expresses the total quantity of waste that is recycled as a proportion of total waste in the metropolitan area (i.e. total waste in the metropolitan area equals total waste disposed to landfill plus total waste recycled).

Mr David Templeman; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr Fran Logan; Mr Chris Tallentire

The forecast rate of the increase in diversion is based on past trends. Based on this an annual increase of around five percent has been used for forecasting purposes.