

WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK

180. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the proposed 7 360-hectare expansion of Wellington National Park.

- (1) Will all the submissions on the proposal be publicly available?
- (2) Did the Forest Products Commission make a submission?
- (3) What will be the impact of the expansion on the forestry and timber industries and on the forest discovery park?
- (4) If the proposed expansion takes in any part of the Glen Mervyn Dam picnic and camping area, will access or camping fees be introduced; dogs continue to be allowed; water sports, including motorised vessels, personal watercraft or waterskiing be allowed; and recreational fishing, including the catching of marron, be allowed?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) An analysis and summary of the public submissions will be made public.
- (2) No. However, the Forest Products Commission was consulted on the proposed expansion by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The DBCA will continue to consult the FPC on this matter.
- (3) Minimising both the short-term and long-term impacts on the timber industry has been a key consideration throughout the selection of areas for and the overall extent of an expanded national park. The proposed expansion has the potential to remove areas currently available for timber harvesting under the “Forest Management Plan 2014–23”. However, timber volumes will be maintained through alternative areas for the duration of the current FMP. There is no impact on the Wellington Discovery Forest.
- (4) There is no plan to change management arrangements for these issues in the short term. These issues will be considered through a public consultation process when the “Wellington National Park, Westralia Conservation Park and Wellington Discovery Forest: management plan 2008” is revised to account for an expanded park.