

VEGETATION COVER

**837. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to the spreadsheet on the percentage of vegetation cover over several local shires that was supplied by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and can be found on my website. Given the decline in the percentage of vegetation cover over the past 20 years, why has funding for the natural resource management also declined from \$30 million in 2012 to \$20 million in 2013, and \$24 million over the next three years from 2014?

**The PRESIDENT:** We have had several questions like this referring to the member's website. You know that ministers and parliamentary secretaries are strongly discouraged from referring to just a website in providing an answer, for the obvious reason that websites change. Perhaps you need to back up the question with a date or something like that to confirm exactly what information you are referring to.

**Hon Robin Chapple:** Thank you, Mr President; I will endeavour to do that in future.

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

Revegetation is one of the numerous activities found under the state natural resource management program. Other actions eligible for funding include on-ground works such as fencing, weed and pest control, sustainable agricultural practices and interrelated activities such as capacity building, planning and information products. The program is currently designed to provide funding for community and volunteer groups to undertake localised NRM activities with a strong focus on the public outcomes. Funding for natural resource management comes from the state NRM program, royalties for regions, and the commonwealth government's Caring for Our Country program and the National Landcare program. The funding for natural resource management from the sources will exceed \$30 million in 2014.