

VEGETATION CLEARING APPLICATION — BANKSIA ROAD RESERVE, WELLARD

372. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the application to clear vegetation CPS 6492/1 at the Banksia Road reserve in Wellard.

- (1) Has the minister read GHD's report, dated March 2014, which recommended that the area be vested as a nature reserve?
- (2) Is the minister aware of GHD's continuing surveys that have found that the site has a very high species diversity and richness and provides habitat for species identified as matters of national environmental significance, including the Carnaby's black cockatoo and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the site is occupied by several species of conservation-significant fauna and that it is within the buffer of a threatened ecological community?
- (4) Can the minister confirm that works on this registered contaminated site could expose the community to contaminated dust and could pollute groundwater?
- (5) Will the minister reject the application in light of these problems, GHD's ongoing research and significant local community opposition; and, if not, why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question and provide the following answer.

- (1) No. The application has been made to the Department of Mines and Petroleum, and the departmental officials are currently assessing the application and consulting with other relevant state agencies. I am advised that DMP has received and reviewed a report from GHD, commissioned by the City of Kwinana.
- (2) I am advised that through the assessment of the native vegetation clearing permit application, these matters have been identified.
- (3)–(4) I am advised that DMP officials are aware of the registered status of the site, and are consulting with the Department of Environment Regulation on the matter.
- (5) The assessment of the native vegetation clearing permit has not been completed and a decision has not been made. It is important for all matters to follow due process and that consistent and transparent assessments of proposals are completed prior to applications being approved or refused.