

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION, DETERMINATION 60

301. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

With respect to Western Australian Planning Commission determination 60 that nine hectares of land in the north east portion of location 277 Lake Mealup Road North, West Murray not be included as regional open space under the Peel region scheme, I ask -

- (1) Was this area uncleared land when it was proposed that it be set aside to provide a substantial reservation protecting the remnant vegetation on location 277 and to provide a linkage between Harvey Estuary and Lake Mealup, principally for conservation purposes?
- (2) Was any restriction placed on the clearing of this land following its identification in the inner Peel region structure plan?
- (3) If so, was any permission sought or granted for the clearing of this land?
- (4) Is it WA Planning Commission policy to reward the clearing of regionally significant vegetation that has been identified for preservation by reclassifying it for rural zone land use?
- (5) What is there to stop any other landowner clearing native vegetation in order to effect a change in planning classification?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) The nine hectares was partly cleared when the final inner Peel structure plan was adopted.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No.
- (5) Under the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 a notice of intent to clear land must be lodged with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation if clearing of more than 1 hectare is proposed. The commissioner may object on grounds concerning land degradation.