

Legislative Council : Environment and Public Affairs Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSES: FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION

1. Area of Old Growth disturbance

Since 2001 (17 years) our records indicate that the FPC has disturbed old-growth forest in two harvesting coupes; Diamond 02 and Barrabup 03: the total combined area affected was $(0.9 + 1.2) = 2.1$ hectares. We have consulted with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) who also identified only these two areas having been disturbed.

Since the introduction of the "Protecting Our Old Growth Forest" policy in 2001 about 150,000 hectares of native forests have been harvested. In preparing and assessing areas for harvest, 3041 ha of previously unmapped old growth have been discovered, of which 2034 ha was nominated by FPC staff. Over this period timber harvesting activities have disturbed old growth forests on about 0.0014% of the total area harvested.

Neither the FPC nor DBCA have recorded the number of trees disturbed at Barrabup.

2. Feedback on the one-year harvest plan

The FPC publishes a one-year harvest plan for the following year in the last quarter of the year. This shows the list of coupes planned for harvesting over the following year. It seeks public comment on this plan.

For the FPC's 2018 one-year harvest plan received four comments, two in relation to Barrabup and two general comments.

3. Cost of Compliance

The FPC does not keep separate accounts as to its compliance costs, however the following are indicative as to the scale of expenditure in meeting environmental and other compliance obligations.

FPC's environmental compliance and audit approximately \$900,000 per year for its three business segments (native forests, sandalwood and plantations)

The FPC's planning activities engage consultants/contractors to undertake surveys in native forests for flora, dieback and heritage, costing around \$600,000 per year. It also funds the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) \$900,000 per year for general implementation of its compliance obligations under the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and \$1,342,000 for planning and surveying of harvest areas.

In addition FPC operations staff undertake various tasks to comply with the requirements of the FMP. While the level of staff input is significant it is not possible to accurately cost the staff time undertaking compliance activities.