



ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Page Number

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

1) With reference to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1:

a) And the Service Summary table on page 201 -

- i. What are the key costs associated with the roughly \$24 million a year to be spent in this year and over the forward estimates on the line item 'Implementation of the Forest Management Plan';

Answer: The key costs associated with the implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* relate to the following activities. The estimated amount shown includes an apportionment of depreciation, management, administration, corporate and accrual costs.

Activity	Activity description	Estimated Cost
Dieback management	Effective <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback management, monitoring and reporting	264,327
Public firewood	Management of public firewood collection	271,159
Approvals - harvest, infrastructure etc. (not mining)	Evaluate and set conditions for approval of proposed disturbance activities on State forest and timber reserves, including for moist soil operations	414,629
Monitoring, audit, reporting and enforcement (not hygiene management planning)	Coordinated inspection, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of activities undertaken on State forest and timber reserves	1,170,402
Public information and education	Provide information to other agencies, the public and community groups	876,586
Management of pests, weeds and diseases (other than dieback)	Minimise the impact of priority weeds, pests and disease on forest values	137,764
Mining	Liaise with mining companies and other agencies relating to exploration, mining and rehabilitation	290,028
Land-use planning (predominantly off DBCA-managed estate)	Provide targeted advice on development proposals including significant infrastructure development	210,570
Natural disasters and rubbish dumping	Respond to natural disasters (other than bushfire) and contaminated sites (including asbestos) and rubbish dumping	1,182,600
Basic raw materials	Planning, management and approval for access to basic raw materials and ensure rehabilitation of disturbed areas	197,403

Activity	Activity description	Estimated Cost
Wungong catchment	Works associated with completion of the Water Corporation's Wungong catchment project	15,455
Monitoring, audit, reporting and enforcement (FMP KPIs)	Contribute to the development of key performance indicator (KPI) protocols for the <i>Forest Management Plan 2014-2023</i> (FMP), and commence required monitoring and reporting	1,526
Forest modelling and decision-support tools; inventory and vegetation assessment, including related mapping and databases	Update and adapt components of forest modelling and decision support tools to improve the capacity to inform timber yield regulation and future forest management options. Incorporates maintenance and development of computer applications and work associated with old-growth forest assessment and fauna habitat zones	2,439,860
Native forest harvest planning	Preparation of the 3-year indicative timber harvest plan	215,280
FMP implementation and monitoring	Data generation, analysis, policy development, internal/external liaison and reporting relating to monitoring the implementation of the <i>Forest Management Plan 2014-2023</i>	413,487
Development and review of policy and guidelines	Prepare and revise guidance documents, and delivery of related training	613,070
Special projects (e.g. research)	Provision of information and advice requested by other divisions or organisations	110,973
Dieback and disease mapping	Detecting and mapping of <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback and other priority plant diseases on DBCA-managed lands; develop and deliver related awareness-raising, induction training activities	561,364
FPC native forest fire management	Forest Products Commission (FPC) native forest fire management	135,169
FPC native forest silviculture	FPC native forest silviculture	2,411,948
FPC native forest management (other)	FPC native forest management (other)	912,850
FPC native forest resource assessment	FPC native forest resource assessment	3,318,473
FPC plantation fire management	FPC plantation fire management	6,096,929
FPC plantation management (other than fire)	FPC plantation management (other than fire)	1,738,149
Estimated Total		24,000,000

- ii. Regarding the line items 'Prescribed Burning and Fire Management' and 'Bushfire Suppression', will the Government please list any difference in the activities that will be funded under these line items over this year and the forward estimates compared to the 2016-17 Budget year;

Answer: The activities funded and undertaken within these services in 2017-18 will remain the same as in previous years, however, the level of activity will vary based on circumstances, such as hectares of prescribed burning achieved or number and size of bushfires attended. Consequently, the expenditure against these two line items will vary dependent on the level of activity throughout 2017-18.

b) And the Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators table on page 202 -

- i. How is it estimated that the removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs will be 382,000 m³ in 2017/18 (total 764,000m³) when only 128,000 m³ were removed in 16/17, and averaging under 130,000m³ for the previous three years, that is, what are the expected changes that would suggest FPC would be able to carry out such an increase;

Answer: From 2014-15 and successive years, the target figure is a cumulative annual figure of 10 per cent (that is 10, 20, 30 and 40 per cent for year one, two, three and four respectively) of the total first and second grade jarrah and karri sawlog resource available for removal for the 10-year life of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023*, which commenced on 1 January 2014. The average annual allowable cut for first and second grade jarrah and karri sawlogs is detailed in Table 4, page 90 of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023*.

- ii. What is the value expected to be generated by this activity;

Answer: The income generated from the sale of forest products is a matter for the FPC.

- iii. Does the increase equate to an increase in areas of native forests proposed to be logged in 2017-18 compared to the past three years; and

Answer: No. The total 'cutover area' is estimated at around one per cent annually of all forest ecosystems on all lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission in the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023*.

- iv. Why did the 'actual' harvest in 2016-17 fall substantially short of the 'target' harvest for 2016-17.

Answer: Since 2014-15, the subsequent actual removal of first and second grade jarrah and karri sawlogs has been lower than the pro rata limits, reflecting market conditions.

c) And Table 8 on page 206 -

- i. Will the Government please list the primary tasks and responsibilities of the targeted 139 FTEs for 'Implementation of the Forest Management Plan' (for example, weed control; feral animal control; dieback and disease control; firebreak and/or road and/or fence construction and maintenance et cetera); and

Answer: Please refer to the response provided at a) i.

- ii. Will any of the activities undertaken by the 139 FTEs referred to in (i) be directly related to logging and timber harvesting activities and if so, will the Government please list these activities?

Answer: The following activities relate directly to the provision of services to commercial forestry (native forest and plantations):

- FPC native forest fire management
- FPC native forest silviculture
- FPC native forest management (other)
- FPC native forest resource assessment
- FPC plantation fire management
- FPC plantation management (other than fire).

