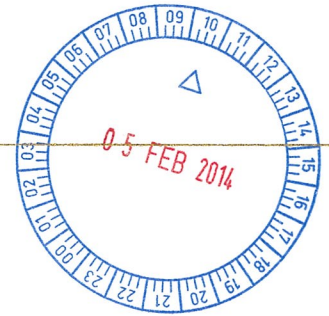




PUBLIC

17102/14



**Hon Albert Jacob MLA
Minister for Environment; Heritage**

Our Ref: 50-02324/5

Hon Ken Travers MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council of Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Travers

Thank you for your letter dated 20 January 2014 regarding responses to Questions on Notice from the Department of Environment Regulation's Annual Report Hearing held on 6 November 2013.

Please find attached the requested clarification to departmental responses – numbered A2, A4, A6 and A8 respectively.

Yours sincerely

Albert Jacob MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; HERITAGE

03 FEB 2014

Att.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2014

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A2 (asked by Hon. A Clohesy)

For the period 1 November 2012 to 31 August 2013, 499 clearing permits were granted totalling 10,408 hectares approved to be cleared.

The number of hectares relate to clearing permits granted within the specified timeframe, and not the number of hectares of vegetation cleared following a survey.

Although the Department of Environment Regulation keeps records of surveys received in the Clearing Permit System, it is not in a format that is readily available to provide the information requested. To review each individual application and manually extract all information on data collected, including obtaining information on the time period in which the vegetation is actually cleared, would require undue time and resources.

AJ

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2013

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A4 (asked by Hon. P Katsambanis)

The figures provided in the letter sent by Mr Banks on 20 August 2013 included fines issued by the Court as result of a prosecution initiated by the Department.

The response provided to question A4 included infringements and modified penalties paid only, not fines issued by the Court as a result of a prosecution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AJ' or 'A.J.', located on the right side of the page.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2013

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A6 (asked by Hon. A Clohesy)

In its current format, the Clearing Permit System cannot be readily interrogated to obtain the information requested.

The Department of Environment Regulation has used a data analysis tool to extract information from the Clearing Permit System to estimate the proportion of applications at variance with the clearing principles. It would require however, undue time and resources to verify the precise accuracy of the information retrieved.

Noting this limitation, it is estimated that one third of clearing permits granted were 'at variance' to one or more of the clearing principles for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

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ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2013

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A6 (asked by Hon. A Clohesy)

Note to Minister:

Of the 601 clearing permits that were granted within the specified timeframe, the Department of Environment Regulation granted 391 and the Department of Mines and Petroleum granted 210.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AJ' with a stylized flourish below the 'J'.

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2014

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A8 (asked by Hon. K Travers)

The agreement reached following the early termination of the lease by the State did not require Cleanaway Technical Services to contribute financially to the remediation of the Brookdale site.

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ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION

Wednesday, 6 November 2014

Department of Environment Regulation

Clarification - Question No. A2 (asked by Hon. A Clohesy)

Note to Minister:

Of the 499 clearing permits granted, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) granted 322 and the Department of Mines and Petroleum granted 177. DER approved 2,710 hectares.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'A' and 'J' in a stylized, cursive font.