

**Division 48: Environment Regulation —**

**[Supplementary Information No A81.]**

*Question:* Mr D.A. Templeman asked whether current regulations permit medical waste to be transported interstate; and, if so, when that provision was introduced.

*Answer:* The *National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure* (NEPM) was made on 26 June 1998 under subsection 14(1) of the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994* (Commonwealth). The Measure provides a basis for ensuring that controlled wastes which are to be moved between States and Territories are properly identified and transported.

Schedule A List 1 of the NEPM includes 75 waste categories including:

- clinical and related wastes;
- wastes from the production and preparation of pharmaceutical products; and
- waste pharmaceuticals, drugs and medicines.

The transportation of these wastes between States and Territories is reported annually in the National Environment Protection Council’s annual report.

**[Supplementary Information No A82.]**

*Question:* Mr D.A. Templeman asked how many illegal dumping prosecutions were pursued, and the outcomes, in 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15.

*Answer:* The following statistics are based on the date of conviction.

Period	Prosecutions	Convictions
2012/13	8	8
2013/14	2	2
2014/15	4	4
2015/16	11	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

**[Supplementary Information No A83.]**

*Question:* Mr C.J. Tallentire asked: How many hectares of native vegetation destruction have been approved to date in 2015–16?

*Answer:* Between 1 July 2015 to 26 May 2015, a total of 376 clearing permits were granted under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP), authorising clearing of 13 836 hectares of native vegetation and 1 863 trees.

DER granted 259 clearing permits authorising clearing of 2 417 hectares of native vegetation and 1 444 native trees and DMP granted 117 clearing permits authorising clearing of 11 419 hectares of native vegetation and 419 native trees.

**[Supplementary Information No A84.]**

*Question:* Mr W.J. Johnston asked whether data related to approvals for native vegetation clearance is included in the government’s open data policy.

*Answer:* The Western Australian Whole of Government Open Data Policy considers data to be open when it is released and available for the general public; easily discoverable; in formats that are modifiable, non-proprietary and machine-readable; licensed to enable reuse and redistribution; and available at no cost to users.

The Department of Environment Regulation’s Clearing Permit System, which manages data for the regulation of clearing under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, is a publicly available database which has been designed to meet Government, community and industry expectations for transparency and accountability.

The database includes information on applications and outcomes: the applicant, the proposed clearing (including spatial location, area), the decision and assessment report, any applicable offset (linked to the Environmental Offsets Register), and relevant appeals. The system provides a flexible search function, and the ability to export data for further analysis (using Excel for example). There is no cost for users in accessing or downloading the data.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday, 26 May 2016]

p675a-675a

Mr David Templeman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mr Bill Johnston

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The Clearing Permit System meets or exceeds the criteria as outlined above under the Government's Open Data policy.