

METROPOLITAN CATCHMENT AREAS, WATER COLLECTION

606. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

Will the minister please detail what initiatives and projects are being undertaken in the main metropolitan catchment areas to ensure that they are collecting water to their maximum potential?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. It is important to understand that the metropolitan catchments are not managed solely for the purpose of maximising water collection. The land management activities within the metropolitan catchments are largely governed by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia's "Forest management plan 2004-2013". The Wungong catchment environment and water management project is a new initiative that is being undertaken by the Water Corporation as a 12-year trial for improved water production and quality and to aid the development of sustainable forest management in the south west catchments. The Water Corporation and the Department of Conservation and Land Management are continuing to work together to assess the opportunities for the use of prescribed burning to increase recharge and run-off within drinking water catchments.