

ENVIRONMENT — SOUTH AFRICAN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL COMPANY —  
ILLEGAL CLEARING

5956. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to South African Western Australian Pastoral Co (SAWA) clearing native vegetation without authorisation, and I ask:

- (a) how many times has SAWA been found guilty of clearing native vegetation without authorisation;
- (b) how will the Minister ensure that this company does not continue this illegal behaviour;
- (c) will the Minister ban this company from continuing to holding Pastoral leases because of the company's ongoing illegal behaviour;
- (d) does the Minister believe the Department's processes are effective in monitoring activities to ensure company compliance with all pastoral lease conditions; and
- (e) how will the Department modify its processes so that the Department successfully monitors activities to ensure SAWA complies with all pastoral lease conditions now and into the future?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**

- (a) Once. SAWA Pty Ltd was convicted of Unauthorised Clearing of Native Vegetation on 23 August 2016.
- (b) SAWA Pty Ltd's prosecution serves as a reminder of its obligations under the clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Department of Environment Regulation monitors vegetation change through comparison of aerial and satellite-derived imagery to determine where further investigation may be required.
- (c)–(e) Pastoral leases are regulated under the *Land Administration Act 1997*. Questions in relation to the renewal of pastoral leases should be referred to the Minister for Lands.