

KENINUP FOREST BLOCK, ADDITIONS TO PERUP NATURE RESERVE

144. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many hectares of Keninup block were proposed to be added to Perup nature reserve in the 1994 Forest Management Plan?
- (2) How many hectares of Keninup block will be added to Perup nature reserve as a result of the Regional Forest Agreement?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1-2) One of the objectives of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process was to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system, in accordance with the Nationally Agreed Reserves Criteria. The RFA process resulted in a commitment to establish a net increase in new formal reserves of 150,000 hectares. In comparison to the target levels of reservation in the reserves criteria, some values were found to be lacking in the existing reserve system, while other values were over-represented. Consequently, some of the areas proposed for reservation under the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003 have been redesigned or are intended to remain as State forest and, based on the information gathered during the RFA process, the new criteria, and community priorities in respect of old growth, higher value areas have been substituted for them.

Just as the RFA process has changed previous decisions about which areas are available for timber harvest, it has also changed previous decisions about which portions of Keninup forest block are intended to be included in the conservation reserve system. Nevertheless, the RFA will result in an increase in the reservation of the forest ecosystems that occur in Keninup forest block: Jarrah North East will increase from 15% to 16%; Jarrah South from 29% to 32%; Jarrah Woodland from 50% to 52%; Western Wandoo Woodland from 17% to 23%, Western Wandoo Forest from 16% to 17%; and Shrub, Herb and Sedgelands from 57% to 58%.