LAND CLEARING - STATISTICS

5447. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the continued clearing of land in Western Australia, and I ask -

(1) How many hectares of native vegetation was approved for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006 under the Government's land clearing permit system by -

(a) burning;

(b) cutting;

(c) flooding; and

(d) mechanical removal?

(2) How many hectares of native vegetation was refused for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006 under the Government's land clearing permit system by -

(a) burning;

(b) cutting;

(c) flooding; and

(d) mechanical removal?

(3) How many hectares of native vegetation was approved for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006 under the Government's land clearing permit system for -

(a) grazing and pasture;

(b) road construction or maintenance;

(c) mineral production;

(d) extractive industry;

(e) plantation;

(f) horticulture;

(g) dam construction or maintenance;

(h) building or structure;

(i) miscellaneous;

(j) fence line maintenance;

(k) drainage;

(l) state agreement;

(m) mineral exploration;

(n) recreation;

(o) restoration;

(p) petroleum exploration;

(q) cropping and grazing and pasture;

(r) timber harvesting;

(s) infrastructure maintenance;

(t) aquaculture;

(u) industrial;

(v) hazard reduction or fire control;

(w) cropping;

(x) horticulture and miscellaneous;

(y) extractive industry and road construction and maintenance; and

(z) other?

(4) How many hectares of native vegetation were cleared in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006?

(5) In Western Australia in the year 2005-2006 how many hectares of native vegetation complexes with less than 30 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were -

(a) approved for clearing; and

(b) refused for clearing?

(6) In Western Australia in the year 2005-2006, how many hectares of native vegetation complexes with less than 15 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were -

(a) approved for clearing; and

(b) refused for clearing?

(7) In Western Australia in the year 2005-2006, how many hectares of native vegetation complexes with less than 10 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were -

(a) approved for clearing; and

(b) refused for clearing?

(8) In Western Australia in the year 2005-2006, how many hectares of threatened ecological communities were -

(a) approved for clearing; and

(b) applied for clearing but refused a clearing permit?

(9) How many hectares of bush forever sites were approved for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006?

(10) How many hectares of native vegetation in conservation category wetlands were approved for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006?

(11) How many hectares of native vegetation in lakes identified in the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy were approved for clearing in Western Australia in the year 2005-2006?

(12) How much in tonnes does the Minister estimate the clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia contributed to emissions of carbon dioxide in the year 2005-2006?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

(1)-(2) Data are not maintained by method of clearing. In 2005/06 the total area permitted to be cleared under the clearing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 was 5,608 hectares and the total area refused to be cleared was 2,178 hectares.

(3) (a) 112 ha

(b) 262 ha

(c) 3,518 ha

(d) 127 ha

(e) 15 ha

(f) 236 ha

(g) 22 ha

(h) 101 ha

(i) 202 ha

(j) 1 ha

(k) 20 ha

(l) 0 ha

(m) 315 ha

(n) 6 ha

(o) 0 ha

(p) 2 ha

(q) 246 ha

(r) 2 ha

(s) 0 ha

(t) 0 ha

(u) 11 ha

(v) 30 ha

(w) see the answer to (q)

(x) see the answer to (f)

(y) see the answer to (d)

(z)

railway construction or maintenance	197 ha
petroleum production	149 ha
stockpile	16 ha
bore construction	15 ha
landscaping	3 ha

(4) The Department of Environment and Conservation does not have data for total extent of clearing in Western Australia in 2005/06.

(5) (a) Permits authorising clearing of 258 hectares were granted within native vegetation complexes with less than 30 percent of their pre-European extent remaining.

(b) Permit applications for 1,089 hectares of clearing within native vegetation complexes with less than 30 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were refused.

(6) (a) Permits authorising clearing of 11 hectares were granted within native vegetation complexes with less than 15 percent of their pre-European extent remaining.

(b) Permit applications for 160 hectares of clearing within native vegetation complexes with less than 15 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were refused.

(7) (a) Permits authorising clearing of 3 hectares were granted within native vegetation complexes with less than 10 percent of their pre-European extent remaining.

(b) Permit applications for 6 hectares of clearing within native vegetation complexes with less than 10 percent of their pre-European extent remaining were refused.

(8) (a) Permits authorising clearing of 0.09 hectares were granted for areas of threatened ecological communities.

(b) No permit applications to clear threatened ecological communities were refused.

(9) Permits authorising clearing of 24 hectares were granted within Bush Forever sites.

(10) Permits authorising clearing of 5 hectares were granted within conservation category wetlands.

(11) Permits authorising 0.05 hectares were granted within an Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy lake.

(12) Estimates of greenhouse gas emissions due to land use change are provided by the Australian Greenhouse Office in compiling the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The inventory provides the best available estimate of emissions due to land clearing. The most recent data available are for the 2005 calendar year, in which emissions in Western Australia were 4.49 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents.