

NATIVE VEGETATION — MANAGEMENT

**1192. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's publication "Native Vegetation in Western Australia: Issues paper for public consultation" dated November 2019.

- (1) I refer to the information contained within box 8, "Towards statewide, regularly updated native vegetation information". What further progress has been made over the last 12 months in "building on and scaling up existing platforms, products and partnerships to improve datasets and access to them"?
- (2) Has DWER resolved an answer in respect of what a best practice data acquisition, management and utilisation strategy might be?
- (3) If yes to (2), please describe what it is and what funding has been appropriated to that end.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has been undertaking a range of actions over the past 12 months to improve the management of native vegetation. Over 1 000 submissions were made on the "Native Vegetation in Western Australia: Issues paper for public consultation" which are being considered in the development of the first whole-of-government native vegetation policy. The native vegetation policy will include a staged approach to improve data acquisition, management and use of native vegetation data. The draft is expected to be released for public consultation before the end of the year. In addition, DWER is leading improvements through adjustments to practice within usual business, leveraging the progress of projects, including Environment Online and the biodiversity information office. Further appropriations will be considered once the policy is finalised.